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**77\* Qs**

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Top 20 | **54** in  
Top 100 | **Total  
200+**  
Selections

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NEW DELHI • PUNE

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NEARBY



**Kejriwal takes a jibe at  
Tiwari over NRC**

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took a dig against BJP State chief Manoj Tiwari here on Wednesday, saying if the National Register of Citizens was implemented in the Capital, the Bhojpuri singer-turned-politician would be the first to leave the city.

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

**PM's economic advisory  
council reconstituted**

NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday announced that it had reconstituted the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council for a period of two years. The council would have two part-time members apart from the two full-time members. Two dissenting members, Rathan Roy and Shamika Ravi, have not been retained.

**BUSINESS** ▶ PAGE 15

**ANSWER WRITING for 2020**  
Starts: 1st Oct. @ 11am  
Pri & Mains Test Series-2020  
(BATCH-5) 6th October  
MALKA IAS 011-47340741  
506, 2nd Floor, ORN, New Delhi-60

## Higher Education Bill in winter session

HECI to take over regulatory functions

**PRISCILLA JEBARAJ**

NEW DELHI

A Bill that aims to create a single regulator for higher education, replacing the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), is likely to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament.

It proposes to bring almost all areas of higher education – including technical, architectural and legal courses – under the ambit of a single umbrella body. Medical education, however, will not come under the proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), according to the draft Bill.

The new version of the legislation has also removed a controversial proposal to move grant disbursal authority from autonomous bo-

## Impeachment inquiry against Trump begins

He is accused of seeking Ukraine's help to target Biden

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives were set on Wednesday to move forward with a formal impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, a move that could dramatically change the 2020 presidential race.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had for months resisted calls inside her party for Mr. Trump's impeachment, announced that a formal inquiry would be launched after meeting members of her party on Tuesday.

**Betrayal, says Speaker**  
The Speaker described the Republican President's behaviour as a "betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections".

Mr. Trump repeated his attack on Democrats on Wednesday and, as with the U.S. probe into alleged Russian meddling and potential obstruction of justice, called the inquiry a "Witch Hunt". Ms. Pelosi's change of

### President under scanner

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched a formal impeachment inquiry against U.S. President Donald Trump



**The focus:** The impeachment inquiry focuses partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from a foreign government to undermine Democratic Joe Biden and help his own re-election

**The confrontation:** The impeachment inquiry, after months of investigations by House Democrats of the Trump administration, sets up the party's most direct and consequential confrontation with the President

**The impact:** The decision injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances

**There has been no President in the history of our Country who has been treated so badly as I have. The Democrats are frozen with hatred and fear. They get nothing done. This should never be allowed to happen to another President. Witch Hunt!** DONALD TRUMP, ON TWITTER

heart followed reports that Mr. Trump had pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in a July 25 telephone call to investigate Mr. Biden, the former U.S. Vice-President, and his son Hunter Biden, who had worked for a company drilling for gas in Ukraine.

Scrutiny over their conversation is expected to intensify on Wednesday as Mr. Trump is scheduled to meet the Ukrainian leader alongside a UN meeting in New

York and later take questions from the media.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump said he would release a transcript of the call.

Mr. Trump has said he discussed Mr. Biden and his son in the call, but denied putting any pressure on the Ukrainian leader despite his administration's withholding of nearly \$400 million in military aid approved for Kiev by the Congress.

**ANOTHER REPORT** ▶ PAGE 14

## 60% girls in Delhi colleges anaemic

Detection camps at 12 colleges show incidence higher than national average

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

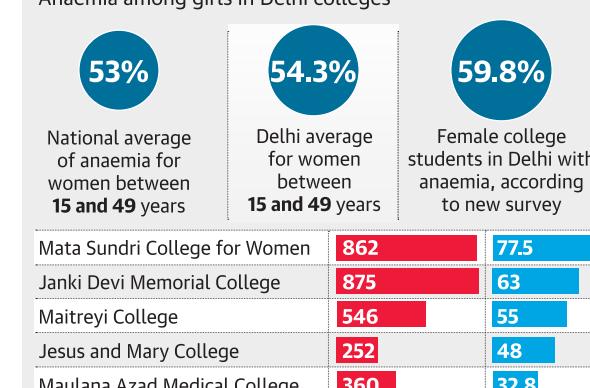
When 18-year-old Anu (name changed) stood in a queue at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College for a blood test, she had no idea that she would be detected with "severe" anaemia, which is risky, according to doctors. "I never thought I had anaemia. I did not feel any of its symptoms," she said.

About 60% of female students in Delhi colleges are anaemic – well above the national average – according to an analysis of data collected from ongoing anaemia detection and awareness camps of the Delhi government accessed by *The Hindu*. The findings, which are yet to be made public, are based on tests on a total of 5,224 female students in 12 city colleges, of whom 3,128 (59.9%) were found to be anaemic.

The national average of

### Thin red lines

Anaemia among girls in Delhi colleges



anaemia among women between 15 and 49 years is 53% and in Delhi it's 54.3%, according to National Family Health Survey-4.

While the national average came down from 55.3%

quickly over a few days, it can even lead to cardiac failure," said Dr. Nitin Gupta, senior consultant, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The students found anaemic during the camps have been referred to nearest government hospitals for treatment. Also, the health department has asked all State government-run hospitals to make sure that students detected with "severe" anaemia are provided "out-of-queue treatment".

**IIFA tablets for colleges'**  
State programme officer (adolescent health) Dr. Gautam Singh agreed that the percentage of women with anaemia is indeed very high. "We plan to extend distribution of IIFA tablets to colleges," he said.

During the camps, 94 of the 3,128 female students were detected with "severe" anaemia.

The arrest happened 24 hours before a local court was to hear her application

## U.P. law student held in extortion case

She had accused ex-Minister of rape

**OMAR RASHID**

LUCKNOW

The law student from Shahjahanpur in U.P. who accused former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand of rape was on Wednesday arrested by the Special Investigation Team in an extortion case filed by him.

The student's family alleged that the SIT team "dragged her" out of their house without any proper notice or procedure and also misbehaved with the family members.

### Enough evidence

The police, however, said they had enough evidence, specifically a video clip, to establish that the law student and her three male friends she had planned the extortion against Mr. Chinmayanand and sent him messages demanding ₹5 crore.

The other three, Sanjay Singh, Sachin Sengar and Vikram alias Durgesh, were arrested earlier. The four have been booked for extortion, disappearance of evidence and criminal intimidation, among other sections.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

## It's raining discounts for vehicle buyers

Automobile manufacturers roll out the red carpet to buyers to clear inventory



**Big drive:** The discounts range from ₹50,000 to ₹1,50,000 depending on the car brand. ▶ PTI

car maker, has cut prices of several models by ₹5,000 to ₹1,50,000 depending on the brand and the manufacturer. But these schemes will not apply to newly launched cars and SUVs. Tata Motors, for example, is offering benefits of up to ₹1.5 lakh while Hyundai's benefits range from ₹6,000-95,000 depending on the model.

Maruti Suzuki, the biggest

dealers. Two-wheeler maker Bajaj Auto has already advertised benefits of up to ₹7,200 per motorcycle while Honda Motorcycles is planning to announce its scheme shortly. Car sales have been declining for nine months, and last month the passenger vehicle sales had dropped by around 40% causing concern. Automakers are saddled with unsold stock at factories and dealerships and with the GST Council not reducing rates on automobiles, manufacturers are dropping prices and rolling out the red carpet to buyers to clear their

inventory. Even luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India has joined the benefits party. It has introduced mobility solutions 'Wishbox' which is a compilation of customised financial solutions to help customers buy a new car. These include low or zero down payment. The exact benefits could not be established. Hyundai Motor India is offering benefits of up to ₹95,000 on Grand i10, ₹65,000 on Elite i20, ₹65,000 on Santro and ₹80,000 on Creta, besides offering four years extended warranty.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**

## 10 killed as oil tanker hits auto in Jind

Eight of them were returning from Army recruitment drive



Relatives of the deceased waiting outside the mortuary in Jind. ▶ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

shaw was overloaded. It seems the tanker driver hit the autorickshaw head-on in a bid to avoid the potholes on the road," said Jind SP Ashwin. Tanker driver Bachu Khan, a resident of Barmer in Rajasthan, fled after the accident. He was arrested on Wednesday.

The police team had a tough time pulling out the auto from under the tanker. The tanker was lifted with the help of two cranes. The victims included brothers, Sanjay and Parminder, from Badtana village. While Sanjay died, Parminder suffered grave injuries.

**DEATLIS ON ▶ PAGE 12**

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Tenants in the Capital will now get free electricity up to 200 units under a new Delhi government scheme. Tenants will also be entitled to get prepaid power meters installed at the rented properties which will supply electricity at subsidised rates under the "Mukhyamantri Kirayed Power Meter Yojana", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday.

**CM YK**

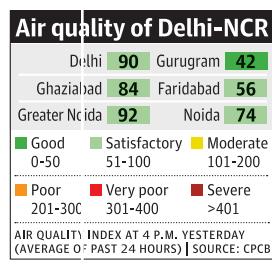
A ND-ND

## IN BRIEF



## Metro services on Yellow Line disrupted

NEW DELHI Services on the Delhi Metro's Yellow Line were disrupted for nearly an hour on Wednesday, following a signalling issue which took place near the HUDA City Centre metro station, said Delhi Metro Rail Corporation spokesperson. Services were hit between HUDA City Centre and Qutub Minar, he said. "Services between HUDA City Centre and Qutub Minar section were affected between 9.45 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. due to track circuit drop [signalling issue] at HUDA City Centre, leading to delay in reversal of trains," the DMRC spokesperson said.



**Make policy to deal with stray animals: HC to govt.**  
NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the AAP government and the municipal corporations to make a policy for controlling the population of monkeys, stray cattle and dogs on city roads and court premises. A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar asked the Delhi government and the civic bodies to constitute a committee, if required, to make the scheme or policy. PTI

## IIT-D declares winners of Alumni Award 2019

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on Wednesday announced that it will be presenting its Distinguished Alumni Award 2019, to Srinivasan Keshav, Professor at Chertton School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo, Mohit Aron, founder and CEO of Cohesity and Binny Bansal, co-founder, Flipkart. The award will be presented at the 50th convocation ceremony of IIT, Delhi, on November 2.

The award will be presented to Arun Duggal, chairman of ICRA Ltd., Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and International Asset Reconstruction Company and Amarjit Singh Bakshi, chairman and managing director of the Bakshi Group a Delhi-based business conglomerate and a first-generation entrepreneur.

Announcing the awards, IIT-D director V. Ramgopal Rao said the institute has over 50,000 alumni right now and many of them have done exceedingly well in their chosen professions and brought a glory to the institute and the country.

## DELHI TODAY

**Exhibitio 1:** "Horizon", a solo painting exhibition by Brajagopal Paul at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibitio 1:** "Man Mai Hain Dilli", an exhibition of watercolours by Krishnendu Chatterjee at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, Ind Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibitio 1:** "Never Concrete", a solo show of Ayesha Singh at Shrine Empire Gallery, D 395, Defence Colony, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibitio 1:** "Rooted", a group art show at Gallery Espace, 16 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibitio 1:** "Art N Art", a group exhibition of painting, sculpture and photography, art and craft, organised at Art Art Gallery, Peary Lal Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column to cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

**CM**  
YK

# Delhi tenants to get free electricity up to 200 units

They can apply for installation of prepaid meters at rented accommodation to get power supply at subsidised rates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Tenants in the Capital will now get free electricity up to 200 units under a new Delhi government scheme which will allow them to install prepaid meters, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday.

Tenants, who constitute over half of the city's population of over 2 crore according to government estimates, will also be entitled to get prepaid power meters installed at rented properties which will supply electricity at subsidised rates under the "Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Power Meter Yojana", Mr. Kejriwal announced at a press conference here.

Under the scheme, tenants will be able to avail the benefits of free electricity up to 200 units as well as subsidy for consumers using 200-400 units per month. The meters will be installed only on domestic consumer properties, the Delhi government said.

## No-objection certificate

"Tenants, so far, were not able to get a separate power meter because they were required to take a no-objection certificate [NoC] from the homeowner to get an independent connection. Tenants will now get a meter using just two documents: rent agreement/receipt or any identity card," said the Chief Minister.

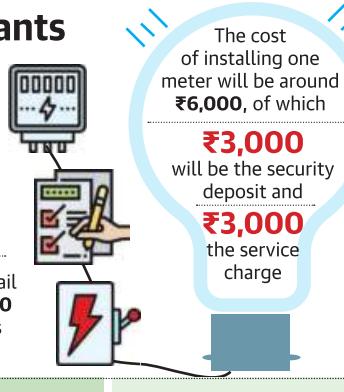
"These meters will also

## More power to tenants

- Tenants can now apply for installation of prepaid power meters at their rented property
- They can avail of the scheme by submitting copies of either rent agreement or rent receipts along with a proof of residence
- The scheme will allow tenants to avail of benefits of free electricity up to 200 units as well as subsidy for consumers using 200-400 units per month

**C** The intent of the scheme is to provide benefits to this other category of multiple tenants living in separate dwelling units at the same property, such as those belonging to the lower middle class in unauthorised colonies in Delhi

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL**,  
Delhi Chief Minister



The cost of installing one meter will be around ₹6,000, of which ₹3,000 will be the security deposit and ₹3,000 the service charge

**Helpline numbers for the installation of prepaid meters:**  
BSES Yamuna  
**19122**  
BSES Rajdhani  
**19123**  
Tata Power  
**19124**

**C** Declaration of the scheme without taking into consideration different aspects is likely to have an adverse impact. The scheme is unlikely to benefit most of the tenants as they are unorganised and without evidence of tenancy

**VIJENDER GUPTA**,  
Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly

have stickers bearing the name of the scheme," he said.

While those incurring bills for consumption up to 200 units are exempted from paying the bill, if the consumption is between 201 to 400 units, half the subsidy is being given.

The cost of these meters, Mr. Kejriwal said, will be the same as incurred by property owners applying for domestic power connections in Delhi. "There are two kinds of tenants in Delhi: those who live in flats or properties which already have power

connections and those who do not have such connections," he said.

"The intent of the scheme is to provide benefits to this other category of multiple tenants living in separate dwelling units at the same property, such as those belonging to the lower middle class, especially at unauthorised colonies in Delhi," he further said.

There is only one power meter for properties with many tenants, Mr. Kejriwal elaborated, which results in high power unit consumption which further leads to

"huge electricity bills".

## Beneficial to landlords

"The landlord charges tenants ₹8-₹10 per unit. With separate connections, many tenants will now get free electricity. On the other hand, the landlord is also likely to get the benefit of subsidy on unit consumption for up to 400 units. The scheme is beneficial to the tenant as well as to the landlord," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Outgoing tenants, who pay ₹3,000 as security for such connections will be able to reclaim the security

amount when vacating the property they had rented. New tenants will have the option to renew these prepaid power connections as and when they take the same property up on rent, he said.

## Counter to BJP

The announcement, sources in the BJP admitted, is a significant counter to its ongoing efforts to garner support from voters residing at an estimated 1,797 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. The BJP, in fact, was poised to take up the issue of lack of any benefits of power and water connection subsidies accruing to citizens staying in rent at unauthorised colonies on the basis of a survey that was commissioned to seek their satisfaction level with the AAP government.

As reported by *The Hindu* on September 10, two ongoing surveys will determine the course of the BJP's campaign and strategy for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections scheduled early next year. Being carried out by private agencies, the larger among the two surveys is a pan-Delhi one, which is currently under way across all 70 Assembly constituencies.

The other seeks to identify loopholes in the AAP government's flagship power and water subsidy schemes in unauthorised colonies. The results of these surveys are expected to be in by mid-October.

## Govt. scheme will lead to disputes: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged the "Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Bijli Meter Yojana", which seeks to extend the benefits of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's power subsidy to tenants, had been announced without any preparation or road map.

The victim has demanded action against the owner of the house, where she was made to work as a domestic help, the agent and the trafficker who had brought her to Delhi. However, despite the passage of 10 days, the police is yet to even register an FIR in the matter," the DCW said.

DCW chairperson Swati Malwal said, "The house-owners should be urgently arrested. The police is yet to arrest the traffickers despite two rescues by the commission in the past week. Is it that the poor and voiceless do not matter to the police at all?"

Officials of the women's commission said that the victim and two other women were brought to the Capital with the promise of a "high-paying" job but was instead made to work as domestic help. It was also alleged that an 80-year-old man in the family tried to molest the victim.

## DCW rescues trafficked woman, issues notice to police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Wednesday said that a 19-year-old woman from Assam, who was allegedly trafficked to Delhi, was rescued from Punjabi Bagh area. The DCW also issued notice to the city police seeking details of the investigation and whether the accused have been arrested yet.

"The victim has demanded action against the owner of the house, where she was made to work as a domestic help, the agent and the trafficker who had brought her to Delhi. However, despite the passage of 10 days, the police is yet to even register an FIR in the matter," the DCW said.

DCW chairperson Swati Malwal said, "The house-owners should be urgently arrested. The police is yet to arrest the traffickers despite two rescues by the commission in the past week. Is it that the poor and voiceless do not matter to the police at all?"

He is announcing schemes without giving any thought to the background and consequences of his declarations. The scheme is likely to lead to a number of disputes between landlord and tenants," Mr. Gupta alleged.

The other seeks to identify loopholes in the AAP government's flagship power and water subsidy schemes in unauthorised colonies. The results of these surveys are expected to be in by mid-October.

## Architects express concerns over Central Vista revamp plan

'Govt. is trying to alter a major landmark in a hasty manner'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Several associations of architects met on Wednesday to discuss the redevelopment plan for the Central Vista and Parliament Building that the Central government has mooted.

The architects said that the government was in a "hasty and unplanned manner" trying to alter a major national landmark like the Central Vista and the Parliament House.

**Design brief** The architects expressed concern that the design brief in the tender document released by the CPWD did not contain any data or inputs which are required for planning a project of

such nature and was "extremely vague and open ended".

## Bidder selection

The architects said that they have written to the Minister concerned and also to the CPWD to conduct an open-design competition as per existing norms but have received no response so far.

They also said that the methodology of selection of the lowest bidder was a cause for concern. "Would we be willing to go for the lowest bidder in the case of other professionals like doctors and lawyers," the architects questioned.

They warned that failing to do so would be an open invitation for an unmitigated cultural and environmental disaster.

mentally sensitive areas of the country and serving as a symbol of iconic value for the entire country, is sought to be altered in such a meretricious manner.

## Advisory team

The Northern Chapter of the Indian Institute of Architects demanded that an advisory team be formed from eminent professionals, including architects, urban designers, historians and other associated fields to lay out a road map and prepare a comprehensive design brief for the development of the area.

They warned that failing to do so would be an open invitation for an unmitigated cultural and environmental disaster.

## Make rules for regulation of banquet halls: NGT

Delhi govt. may also consult CPCB

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi government to formulate guidelines pertaining to the regulation of banquet halls across the city, while stating that violation of environmental norms has an adverse effect on public health.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "The Delhi government may also have consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board and within a broad framework of pan-India guidelines, the government can have its own guidelines to suit the local requirements to mitigate the adverse impact on environment and public health in the light of the orders already passed by the tribunal."

The directions came while the panel was hearing a plea moved by Westend Green Farms Society which alleged that banquets and marriage halls operating in Mahipalpur and Rajokri near the international airport, were causing vehicular congestion and pollution.

Earlier, the NGT had directed forfeiture of a performance guarantee of ₹5 crore deposited by the Delhi government, while observing that the compliance report furnished by the government was not satisfactory.

groundwater, rainwater harvesting, regulation of size of gatherings and action against unauthorised establishments and recovery of environmental compensation."

The directions came while the panel was hearing a plea moved by Westend Green Farms Society which alleged that banquets and marriage halls operating in Mahipalpur and Rajokri near the international airport, were causing vehicular congestion and pollution.

The Bench observed, "The action plan also covers regulation of extraction of

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## Everything is not fine



Indian Youth Congress supporters protest against the hefty fines imposed under the amended Motor Vehicles Act, outside Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

## AAP govt.'s policy seeks to discourage surface parking

To dissuade long-duration parking, on-street parking fee will be increased according to the time spent

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has notified its parking policy which seeks to discourage surface parking across the Capital. It prohibits parking on footpaths and allows civic agencies to prepare a plan for parking in residential areas.

&lt;p

IN BRIEF

**BJP** cleans, garlands statues of leaders in city

NEW DELHI

On the occasion of the birthday of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on Wednesday, the BJP cleaned and garlanded statues of freedom fighters and political leaders across the Capital. Party's national working president Jagat Prakash Nadda cleaned Deendayal Upadhyay's statue at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Park and garlanded it. Mr. Nadda and Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari also cleaned Laxmi Bai's statue at Jhansi Devi and garlanded it.

**8-ft-long python rescued near Indraprastha Park**

NEW DELHI

An eight-foot-long Indian rock python, which ventured on to a busy road near Indraprastha Park was rescued by members of an NGO involved in wildlife conservation. Passers-by spotted the python and informed the police control room, which in turn contacted the NGO. PTI

# Kejriwal takes a jibe at Tiwari over NRC

If exercise is implemented in Delhi, Tiwari will be the first one to leave the city: Chief Minister

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took a dig against BJP State chief Manoj Tiwari here on Wednesday, saying if the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was implemented in the Capital, the Bhojpuri singer-turned-politician would be the first to leave the city.

Mr. Kejriwal's comment triggered a near-immediate response from the BJP, which utilised the opportunity to argue that it had exposed his "real face" coupled with the allegation that the AAP chief wanted to evict migrants belonging to Poorvanchali community from Delhi.

Hailing from eastern parts of the country, such as eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, those constituting the community have a significant presence across the city and play an important role in any election in Delhi.



Manoj Tiwari •

The Chief Minister's comment was in response to a question on the proposed carrying out of an NRC-like exercise, similar to the one in Assam, at a press conference. "If NRC is implemented in Delhi, Manoj Tiwari will be the first to leave Delhi," Mr. Kejriwal told the media.

Mr. Tiwari, a BJP MP from north-east Delhi, who has demanded that the exercise be carried out in the Capital

on more than one occasion, claimed that Mr. Kejriwal "wants to remove people from [West] Bengal, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and other states from Delhi".

**BJP leader hits back**

Does Kejriwal, who is an IRS [Indian Revenue Service] officer, not know what NRC is? It seems Kejriwal has lost his mental balance," Mr. Tiwari said in response to the Chief Minister's comment during a Facebook Live interaction.

"This statement exposes Kejriwal's real face. It means he wants to evict the migrants like Poorvanchalis from Delhi... I have criticised him for his policies but I never abused him," Mr. Tiwari said further.

Last month, Mr. Tiwari had said that the situation in Delhi had become "dangerous" due to the presence of a "large number" of illegal immigrants, including Bangla-

deshis and Rohingyas, who were found to be involved in "criminal activities". Mr. Tiwari had first made the demand at a political rally in 2018.

**'Proof of residence'**

Meanwhile, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj asked if Mr. Tiwari had proof of residence in Delhi since 1971. Attacking the BJP, Mr. Bhardwaj said that Mr. Tiwari wanted people from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand and other North Indian states to be driven out from Delhi.

"These people have come to Delhi to earn a living and Manoj Tiwari wants to drive them out. A proof of living in Delhi for five years is needed for widow pension and people find even that difficult. How will they have proof from 1971?" Mr. Bhardwaj asked.

The Greater Kailash MLA

further alleged that Mr. Tiwari had said that people who have proof from 1971 can only stay in Delhi and others should leave.

"If Manoj Tiwari has the proof from 1971, then he can implement NRC across Delhi. When he does not have it, why does he want to attack poor people who have come from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand?" Mr. Bhardwaj said.

Attacking Mr. Tiwari, the AAP spokesperson also said, "Manoj Tiwari *pade likhe kam hai*. [Manoj Tiwari is poorly educated] BJP leaders are only saying that NRC is a flop idea."

Mr. Bhardwaj further said that the Delhi BJP chief was making such comments as there was a "competition" in Delhi between him and other party leaders, such as Vijender Gupta and Vijay Goel on who would make statements first.

# DPCC fines police HQ construction site, others

₹45 lakh imposed on sites across city

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) said it has fined construction sites, including a new Delhi Police Headquarters being constructed at Jai Singh Marg and a General Pool Residential Accommodation at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, ₹5 lakh each, for violating dust pollution control measures.

A total fine of ₹45 lakh has been imposed on different construction sites across the city, it said.

**'Land belongs to PWD'**

"In case of the police headquarters, the building is being constructed by a private builder and the land belongs to the PWD. We have issued fine to both of them. If the builder does not pay, then the PWD will have to pay it," a DPCC offi-

cial said.

The official said that at the police headquarters site, construction materials were not kept covered and the tyres of trucks were not sprayed with water and that both the measures aimed at controlling the dust that rise into the air.

**Closure orders**

"In some cases, penalty of ₹5 lakh has been imposed with the directions to adopt immediate corrective measures, failing which penalty will be enhanced. In cases where violations are severe, closure directions will be issued," an official statement read.

The drive will continue and the teams will visit various construction sites and arterial roads across the city.

# CM apprises L-G of purpose to implement odd-even scheme

He seeks inter-departmental coordination to make it a success

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday met Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal at Raj Niwas to apprise him of the AAP-led Delhi government's decision to implement odd-even vehicle rationing scheme between November 4 and November 15 here.

The Chief Minister, the Delhi government said in a statement, informed the L-G about the need to implement the scheme when Delhi would be facing a challenge to maintain its air quality due to stubble burning in neighbouring States and bursting of crackers during Diwali.

"Mr. Kejriwal requested the L-G to direct the departments under his jurisdiction to ensure coordination with the Delhi government departments for a hassle-free implementation of the odd-even scheme in order to make it a success like Delhi had witnessed in 2016 when this scheme was implemented for the first time," the statement said.

Mr. Baijal took to Twitter to state, "Discussed measures to reduce air pollution and congestion in Delhi. Requested to explore amongst other measures, option of



He [L-G] assured us of his support and suggested that opening/closing hours of offices be staggered. The government will definitely implement this [sic].

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Chief Minister

staggered opening/closing hours of offices & other establishments to reduce congestion and resultant air pollution [sic]."

The Chief Minister, in his response to Mr. Baijal's tweet, said: "Met Hon'ble LG Shri Anil Baijal ji and briefed him about the steps planned by Delhi govt to reduce air pollution, including Odd Even. He assured us of his support and suggested that opening/closing hours of offices be staggered. The Govt



Anil Baijal •

will definitely implement this [sic]."

The scheme, which entails allowing private vehicles whose registration number ends in even digits to ply on even dates and those with odd last digits to ply only on odd dates, with violators drawing a ₹2,000 fine, will be enforced from November 4 to 15 as part of a seven-point action plan.

The plan is mainly aimed at combating the detrimental effect that stubble and residual crop burning in neighbouring States, such as Punjab and Haryana, have on the Capital's ambient air quality during winter. Other components of the seven-point plan include mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads, tree plantation, and special measures to be put in place at 12 pollution hotspots in Delhi.

# Kailash Gahlot hits out at Law Secretary

He didn't obey order on division of power

**NEW DELHI**

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

Law Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday alleged that Principal Secretary, Law Department, Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, did not follow a Supreme Court (SC) judgment on division of power in Delhi. Mr. Agarwal, however, has termed the Minister's allegations "baseless".

In a 2018 judgment, the apex court had said that the Delhi government need not obtain the L-G Anil Baijal's "concurrence" in every issue of day-to-day governance.

"Sanjay Agarwal overturned the opinion of his predecessor and gave an opinion completely contrary to the SC judgment. He said that all the files should be sent to the L-G and till he approves it, the decisions of Council of Ministers cannot be implemented. This was completely contrary to the judgment," Mr. Gahlot said.

He said that this brought the entire work of Law Department to a standstill. "While the other Delhi government departments are complying with the SC order and are not sending any file for the L-G's approval, the Law Secretary refused to do so. Even when the Law Minister overruled Law Secretary's opinion, the latter re-

fused to follow the written directions of his superior. This was in direct contravention of his conduct rules," Mr. Gahlot said.

Mr. Agarwal, on the other hand, said, "I never obstructed the work of the Law Department and neither do I intend to. The allegations are baseless and I have not received a copy of the Minister's statement."

Referring to their existence as "historical blunder", at a program held at the Talkatora Stadium, Mr. Nadda alleged that these articles were "anti-Dalit, anti-women, anti-national" and their removal had become "necessary".

"...today we are fortunate that with the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president and Home Minister Amit Shah, we have been able to amend the historical blunder. We have been able to see in our lifetime *ek vidhan, ek nishan and ek pradhan* in our country," he said further.

"In May, 2019, people exercised their right of voting and elected us and in Parliament we voted for this historical decision. It is the responsibility of all of us to tell the people through 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan' the meaning of Article 370 and 35A, when it was included and how it

stood to the L-G. Mr. Agarwal told *The Hindu*, "It is my sacrosanct duty to follow the commands of the SC and High Court. I have given my interpretation in my notesheet on 20.6.19 on the basis of well-established principles in letter and spirit of the dictum of the Supreme Court. My opinion was far away from political biases and based on conceptual fairness and I still stand by it."

Mr. Gahlot also said that the Mr. Agarwal had notified Delhi Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2019 without insisting on the L-G's approval. "He has decided to follow the orders of the SC now. The Delhi government will now initiate the process of implementation of ₹50 crore welfare fund of the advocates," Mr. Gahlot said.

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## IN BRIEF

## CAG to audit debt due of Rapid Metro

GURUGRAM  
The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the Comptroller and Auditor General to audit within 30 days the "debt due" in operations of the Gurugram Rapid Metro. The court through its order on September 20 also directed subsidiaries of IL&FS to continue the operations of Rapid Metro for 30 days, effective from September 16.

## Plea against formation of GRC: JIU's reply sought

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought a response of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on a plea by many students, including former office-bearers of the students' union, challenging the formulation of the Grievance Redressal Committee by the university. The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 7. PTI

## Siblings held with heroin worth ₹2.5 crore

GAZIABAD  
Two brothers have been arrested here with over one kg of heroin worth ₹2.5 crore, police said on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, Sachin and Nitin were arrested from Vijay Nagar on Tuesday, DCP Atish Kumar said. PTI

## Shiv Sena leader's nephew shot dead in Ghaziabad

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GAZIABAD  
A nephew of a Shiv Sena leader was shot dead allegedly by motorcycle-borne men here on Wednesday, the police said.

The deceased has been identified as Amit Kumar (45), nephew of Shiv Sena leader Mahesh Ahuja, they said.

Three motorcycle-borne men intercepted Amit Kumar's car near his house in Chiranjiv Vihar colony in

# Street crimes in city have come down by over 20%: police chief

Emergency response number '112', street crime patrol van 'prakhar' launched

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Over the years, the Delhi police have taken several steps such as identifying vulnerable spots, enhancing visibility, forming anti-snatching squads and all-woman patrolling teams resulting in decline of over 20% street crime like snatching and robberies, said Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik at an event to launch a new integrated emergency helpline number '112'.

Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the helpline number and flagged off 'prakhar', a street crime patrol van in the Capital, on Wednesday.

The new number will be common for all emergency services, including police, ambulance, fire brigade and others. Till the time people get used to the new helpline number, all other emergency numbers will be active.

The person in distress can approach the police through Single Emergency Response Number i.e. '112' either through dial or through mobile application. In case of



Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik and others at the launch of Single Emergency Response Number '112' in the Capital on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

emergency, a person can dial 112 from phone or press power button thrice on smart phone to activate a panic call to Emergency Response Centre (ERC). This call will be immediately passed on to the control room for providing quick police assistance.

The distress calls can also be made through social media, e-mail, SMS etc., said a senior police officer.

## 15 prakhar vans

The officer added that 'prakhar' vans will patrol at vulnerable spots to control street crime. A total of 15

vans equipped with modern devices will conduct extensive patrolling on street crime prone areas in Delhi.

During the event, when media persons asked Mr. Patnaik about a series of snatching incidents in the city, he said that special police teams are working on the cases. It will be worked out at the earliest.

"We have taken proactive measures to prevent street crimes. The cases of snatching have come down," said Mr. Patnaik.

Crime by use of firearm has also shown a steady de-

cline due to sustained drive launched against criminals, he added.

Mr. Patnaik said that the response time of Delhi Police to any crime can be compared with any other country. "In 80% of PCR calls, Delhi Police response time is five minute. With the help of 112, we will try to better the response time," he added.

Prakhar street crime control patrol vehicle was conceptualised under 'Safe City Project' to curb street crime. It will add more power to PCR and district police, he added.

## No headway in Dwarka murder case

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police could not make any break through in the murder of a 48-year-old property dealer in Dwarka even after 24 hours of the incident.

DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonso said that three teams are working on the case and it will be solved within a couple of days. "We have sent teams to the adjoining States after getting some clue about the assailants. The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained," said the DCP.

On Tuesday, Narendra Gehlot, a property dealer, was in his SUV and about to leave office on Old Palam Vihar Road when a man walked up to his vehicle and fired at him from a close range. Gehlot got out of the SUV and ran for his life towards the office. The gunman, who was wearing a helmet, climbed on top of a car parked in the locality and fired at Gehlot.

Another gunman also kept firing at him till he fell on the road. He was rushed to a hospital but declared brought dead by doctors, said a police officer.

## Lift technician rapes teen on terrace of high-rise, held

Accused lured her by promising a gift

The teenager's father, a chemical engineer, was away at work while her mother, a home maker, had gone to Delhi for some personal work when the incident took place.

One of the family's neighbours called the girl's mother to inform her about the incident. She returned home and took her to hospital.

**Sent to jail**  
The matter was reported to the police on Tuesday and a case was registered at DLF Phase-II police station under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The accused was arrested from Patel Nagar on Wednesday. He was produced before the court and sent to jail.

## Three wanted criminals held after gunfight

Two of them sustained injuries

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three wanted criminals were arrested by the special cell of the Delhi Police after an exchange of fire in south west Delhi's Dhanasa-Najafgarh Road on Wednesday morning, officials said.

**The car used by the accused has been seized and three firearms along with ammunition have been recovered**

POLICE OFFICIAL

The accused were identified as Pramod, Nishant and Surjeet. While Pramod and Nishant are residents of Bawana, Surjeet is a resident of Rohat. They are members of Sandeep alias Dheelu gang, the police said.

The incident took place on Dhanasa-Najafgarh road when the accused, who were travelling in a car from Haryana to a hideout in South Delhi, were asked to surrender by the police. The accused opened fire at the police team. Two of the accused sustained gunshot injuries during the exchange of fire, a police official said. The injured were said to be stable, the official added.

"The accused were wanted in at least eight different cases, including extortion, robbery, car jacking and attempt to murder. The car used by the accused has been seized and three firearms along with ammunition have been recovered," the official said.

Pramod was wanted in over nine different cases, including attempt to murder, extortion and robbery. He was the prime shooter involved in the escape of Sandeep from police custody in 2018, the police said. Surjeet was earlier sentenced to seven years in a case in Haryana, they added.

## Five-year jail to ex-IAS officer for forgery

For procuring weapons by fudging documents; 81-year-old denied soft punishment.

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has awarded five years imprisonment to an 81-year-old retired IAS officer for procuring licensed weapons on forged documents in Nagaland in 1985. He was posted there at that time.

According to the prosecution, he had purchased these weapons after obtaining a licence by hiding the fact that he had already been issued three licences, the maximum he was entitled to under the law. Further, he committed

forgery by making alterations in the licence to purchase two weapons and 2,000 cartridges in excess of the permission. He was licensed to purchase one weapon and 200 cartridges.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Anu Aggarwal held accused S.S. Ahiutwala guilty under Section 417 (cheating) read with Section 415 (to deceive any person to deliver a property), 471 (using as genuine a forged document) read with Section 467 (forgery) of IPC and Section 25 of Arms Act, 1959.

Counsel for the accused urged the court to award him a lenient punishment keeping in view his old age and the ailments he was suffering from. But the ACMM rejected it.

**Acted contrary to law**  
"The convict is guilty of deliberate, calculated manipulation of the system he enjoyed a supreme position in. He, being a serving IAS officer, was duty bound to uphold the rule of law but he acted contrary and purchased weapons in contravention of the Arms Act and

that too on the basis of forgery in the arms licence of which he was aware of being forged," the ACMM said.

"He was clearly in the knowledge that his acts would lead to corrosion of the very institution of the government from within. Taking a lenient view of the convict's covert corrupt practices will not only rob this court of its sanctity, but will also lead to public derision of the very concept of rule of law," the ACMM said in the sentence order dismissing the plea for a soft punishment.

## Court cancels discharge of 3 in molestation case

Order on revision petition set aside

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has set aside the discharge of three persons in a molestation case, saying that Metropolitan Magistrate Harshita Vatsayan passed the order without discussing the prosecution argument.

Additional Sessions Judge Surinder Kumar Sharma set aside the order on a revision petition filed by the prosecution.

The prosecution argued that the Metropolitan Magistrate had passed the order without applying his mind.

## Specific allegations

The complainant in her statement recorded before a court under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code had levelled specific allegations against the accused persons, counsel for the prosecution further argued.

Allowing the revision petition, the Judge said: "Vide the impugned order dated January 15, 2019, the trial court had framed the charge against accused Rohit (who passed away after being charged), and the other accused persons i.e. the respondents herein, have been discharged of the offences. The perusal of the impugned order shows that the trial has not discussed the arguments addressed by the State/revisionist, while passing the impugned order."

"Neither the impugned order reflects as to what was argued by the State and how were the arguments of the State rejected. The perusal of the impugned order reveals that order on charge is not speaking order. The order discharging the accused persons should be a speaking order," the Judge further said.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) namely Sakir Ali S/o Zakir Ali R/o H. No. 52, Street No. 2, Subash Mohalla, Maupur, Delhi Aged - about 28 Years has been reported missing since 12.08.2019 vide DD No. 4-A Dated 19.08.2019 registered at Police Station Jafrabad, Delhi. His physical description is as under-

**Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Clothing:** Black coloured t-shirt and blue coloured jeans.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Jafrabad, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tel No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 Sd/-  
SHO, Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi  
Ph: 011-27654675, 8750870234 Tel.: 011-22560191, 22560192

## Water woes



Residents fill water from a tanker near Geeta Colony on Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

## Fake MBBS admission racket busted with arrest of three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NOIDA

With the arrest of three men, Noida Police on Wednesday claimed to have cracked a blind murder case and busted a fake MBBS admission racket.

The accused, held from the Zero Point on the Yamuna Expressway on Tuesday evening, were running a fake call centre named "Crack Your Career" through which they duped MBBS aspirants pan India,

the police said.

A body was found near Wajidpur village on September 9 and a probe revealed the identity of the deceased as Sanjeev Rawat alias Rishi, who was an employee of "Crack Your Future" consultancy, SSP, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Vaibhav Krishna said.

"Investigation led the police to the accused men. Three of them have been arrested while four are absconding," Mr. Krishna said. Those arrested have been

identified as Neeraj Singh alias Harendra Singh, 30, Nikhil Gaurav alias Sameer Rai, 25, and Dhirendra Kumar alias Sonal Singh, 41, he said.

"The gang had an office in Janakpuri, Delhi and one in Noida. They had gathered data of candidates aspiring for admission in prominent medical colleges. They would call up gullible candidates and offer them help with admission for a price and then vanish," he said.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

  
Shanti @ Baby

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Shanti @ Baby, D/o: Sh. Dharmvir AKA Murlidhar, R/o: H. No. N-14/44, Munshi Ram colony, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 11.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 29A dated 12.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing girl is as under:

**Name:** Shanti @ Baby, **Age:** 23 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White Shirt and Black Jeans.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.

**Web:** <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph:** 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639  
**SHO**  
Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi  
**Ph:** 011-27654675, 8750870234  
**DP/9392/NW/19**

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Tel No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641, Fax No.: 011-24368639 Sd/-  
SHO, Jafrabad, Delhi Tel.: 011-22560191, 22560192

**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, YAMUNA POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT, UTTAR PRADESH JAL NIGAM**  
Water Works Crossing, Jeoni Mandi Road, Agra (U.P.) 282004  
**Ref. No. 909/Nivida/2019**  
**Dated 21-9-2019**  
**E-Tender Notice**

U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on Single bid system for "Operation & maintenance of 10,445 MLD WSP STP Etawah Intending tenderers must be registered with U.P. Jal Nigam. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online as per schedule given below:-

Data for - (i) Uploading bid document at website: from 28-09-2019 at 17 (ii) Online Submission of e-bids: upto 21-10-2019 at 17.00 (iii) Opening of bid: 22-10

DELHI	Timings
THURSDAY, SEPT. 26	
RISE 06:11 SET 18:13	
RISE 03:07 SET 16:49	
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27	
RISE 06:12 SET 18:12	
RISE 04:16 SET 17:34	
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28	
RISE 06:12 SET 18:11	
RISE 05:25 SET 18:15	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	25
Safdarjung	35	25
Palam	35	23

Delhi Palam Today  
35°C A hazy and cloudy morning is likely. There are chances light rain at isolated places.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
35°C A comfortable and hazy morning is likely. Day will be mostly dry and warm with cloudy sky.

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THE HINDU  
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# AAP announces candidates for Punjab Assembly bypolls

Party to raise several issues, including unemployment and unfulfilled promises

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday declared its candidates for the Punjab Assembly bypolls.

AAP State president and Sangar Member of Parliament Bhagwant Mann announced the names of all the four candidates after the party's core committee meeting held here.

"Gurdhan Singh Multani will be our candidate for the Mukerian seat while Santosh Kumar will contest from the Phagwara constituency," he said, adding that Mahinder Singh will be the party's candidate from the Jalalabad constituency and Amandeep Singh Mohi will be its candidate for the Dakhia seat.

The Jalalabad and Phagwara seats fell vacant after their MLAs Sukhbir Badal of the Akali Dal and Som Parkash of the BJP were elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently concluded parliamen-



AAP's Punjab unit chief Bhagwant Mann and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema announcing the party candidates in Chandigarh on Wednesday. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

tary election.

Dakha seat fell vacant after former AAP MLA H.S. Phoolka resigned in January this year while election was necessitated for the Mukerian seat following the demise of Congress MLA Rajnish Kumar Babbi.

Polling in Punjab would be held on October 21, 2019, and the counting will take place on October 24.

## BJP yet announce names

Mr. Mann said the party will raise several issues, including unemployment, farmers' deaths and unfulfilled promises by the Congress.

The Congress has already announced its candidates while the Akali Dal has announced its candidate for the Dakha seat. It is yet to name a contestant from Jalalabad. SAD's ally BJP is also yet to announce its candidates for the Mukerian and Phagwara seats.

# Scindia unhappy with crop damage survey in M.P.

He has demanded reassessment, adequate compensation

STAFF REPORTER  
Bhopal

Expressing dissatisfaction with the State government's survey of crops ravaged by rain and floods, Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia has demanded a reassessment and "adequate compensation" for the affected farmers.



Jyotiraditya Scindia.  
■ FILE PHOTO

some areas. There is no need for a survey there."

## 'No colour of disaster'

"The colour of disaster is neither the colour of the Congress nor of the BJP. Therefore, every government should come forward to help farmers. There is no flood in Malwa, it's a disaster. The Centre should extend relief immediately," he said.

The affected should be extended relief at three levels – the State government, the crop insurance and the Centre, he added. He said the BJP should press the Centre to release the relief package for the State immediately.

Recently, factionalism within the party came to the fore with Forest Minister Umang Singh accus- ing former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh of trying to destabilise the government, and two Congress MLAs levelling corruption charge against Health Minister Tulsiram Silawat.

Mr. Scindia said since the weather was clear now, a re-survey should be initiated. "Patwaris and tehsildars should visit fields to assess the actual damage and compensation should be paid accordingly."

Stating that it was his aim to get each affected individual complete relief, he added, "I believe there is 100% damage to every field in

# One more held in arms delivery case

Weapons were suspected to have been delivered from Pakistan using drones

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police on Wednesday arrested one more person in connection with the delivery of arms and ammunition from Pakistan through use of drones.

The police said Gurdev Singh, resident of Jhaj village in Hoshiarpur district was arrested by a team of the State Special Operation Cell from PAP Chowk in Jalandhar.

**Revived KZF**  
Gurdev is the brother of Germany-based operative Gurmeet Singh Bagga who had reorganised their terrorist group – Khalistan Zindabad Force – to revive terrorism in Punjab, along with the Pakistan-based chief of KZF, Ranjeet Singh alias Neeta.

On September 22, the

## Drones will be shot down'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Military drones that come from across the border will be shot down by the Army and Air Force, said Lt. Gen. Alok Kler, South Western Army Commander on Wednesday.

police had busted a terrorist module of the revived KZF, seized arms in Tarn Taran district and arrested four suspects.

The police said initial investigation revealed that the weapons were suspected to have been delivered recently through drones launched by Pakistan's ISI and the State-sponsored jihadi and pro-Khalistani terrorist outfit working under its com-

mand.

In all five AK-47 rifles (along with 16 magazines and 472 rounds of ammunition), four Chinese-made .30 bore pistols (along with eight magazines and 72 rounds of ammunition), nine hand grenades, five Thuraya satellite phones along with their ancillary equipment, two mobile phones, two wireless sets and ₹10 lakh fake Indian

currency had been recovered.

The police on Wednesday dismissed reports that the weapons weighed 80 kg.

## Probe under way

"..The recovery of [weapons etc] is not 80 kg, it's not that... also, can one drone carry 10 kg payload etc, all these are technical issues, which are under examination. We need to study all these aspects," R.N. Dhone, Addl. DGP, Internal Security, told *The Hindu*.

News reports suggested that drones capable of lifting up to 10 kg flew in from Pakistan eight times to drop the cache. "Whether the drones were GPS-fitted or how many times they flew, all these things are being examined right now. As of now nothing can be confirmed," said Mr. Dhone.

The Agriculture Department has ordered impounding of the combine harvester machines which are found to

# Punjab takes steps to check stubble burning

State orders impounding of harvester machines operating without super SMS

VIKAS VASUDEV

CHANDIGARH

With paddy harvesting picking up in Punjab, the State government has ordered impounding of combine harvester machines operating without the Super Straw Management System (super SMS) in an attempt to curb stubble burning.

Farmer outfits said the decision would add to their cost of operations, resulting in additional financial distress.

They warned of an agitation if farmers are not duly compensated.

Paddy harvesting is expected to pick up momentum over the next 10-15 days and the farmers will face the challenge of managing nearly 20 million tonnes of straw this season.

The Agriculture Department has ordered impounding of the combine harvester machines which are found to



A farmer burning paddy stubble. ■ FILE PHOTO

be functioning without the super SMS.

The use of super SMS with combine harvester helps to facilitate *in situ* management of crop residue, the super SMS attached to the rear of a combine harvester chops and uniformly spreads loose straw on the field. With this method, the farmers are not required to burn the straw before sowing the next crop.

In the wake of adverse impact of stubble burning on the environment, the Department has issued directions under Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. There are nearly 12,000 combine harvesters in Punjab, of which 5,000 are fitted with super SMS.

"We have issued directions to all Deputy Commissioners to depute adequate staff for ensuring strict implementation of the instructions," said Kahan Singh Panu, State Agriculture Secretary.

Farmers' outfits, however, expressed reservations over the orders.

## Additional expenses

"This will only add to our cost of production. Now a farmer will have to spend at least ₹400-₹500 per acre additional for harvesting the

# 'No e-waste dismantling on riverbanks'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure that there is no illegal dismantling of e-waste along the banks of the river Ramganga in Moradabad, while observing that it is an important tributary of the river Ganga.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said that any dismantling or recycling had to be done in accordance with relevant hazardous waste management rules.

"Treatment, storage and disposal facilities must also be compliant with the rules. Such precautions of compliance of the rules are required by all handlers or recyclers of e-waste or hazardous waste throughout the country," the Bench said.

The green panel said that the directive has to be circulated to all authorities concerned by the Central Pollution Control Board.

During the hearing, the U.P. Chief Secretary also informed the tribunal that an action plan prepared will be executed in two stages. "In stage I, there will be temporary storage and in stage II permanent facility will be set up. Status report has been handed over during the hearing to the effect that temporary storage has been ensured and several steps taken for permanent disposal in TSDF at Amroha."

# Adityanath govt. to give ₹6K annually to triple talaq victims

The Chief Minister also promises free legal aid

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Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced an annual assistance of ₹6,000 to the victims of triple talaq till their rehabilitation and said they will also get free legal aid from the State government.

The Chief Minister, under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, interacted with the women who faced divorce through outlawed practice of instant triple talaq. He said such women should be given rights over

Ayushman Bharat Yojana or under the Chief Minister Argya Scheme," he said.

Yogi Adityanath directed the departments concerned to prepare welfare schemes for the victims. "Proper schemes should be implemented for the overall development of the society and no person should feel neglected."

While assuring the triple talaq victims that their grievances will be redressed, he warned the police that they too would be punished if they failed to perform their duty.

Recently, the Centre reopened anti-Sikh riot cases against him

STAFF REPORTER

BHOPAL

Stating that the Madhya Pradesh government would celebrate the 55th 'Prakash Parv' of Guru Nanak in a grand manner, Chief Minister Kamal Nath said on Wednesday that places associated with the Sikh guru in the State would be developed as religious tourism sites.

At a meeting in Bhopal with members of the Sikh community for seeking suggestions on the celebrations, Mr. Nath said: "The com-

munity is brave and is known for its self-respect. The sacrifice Sikh gurus have made for humanity has been inscribed in golden letters in the pages of history."

Recently, the Centre had decided to reopen seven anti-Sikh riot cases of 1984, including the Parliament Street case, allegedly involving Mr. Nath.

He said a committee would be constituted to organise a yatra as part of celebrations. Surjit Singh Tuteja, general secretary of the Central Gurusingha Sabha M.P.-Chhattisgarh, said it was a matter of pride for the community as for the first time a Chief Minister had invited them to discuss the subject.

## 2 minor girls gang-raped

DHANBAD (JHARKHAND)  
Two minor girls, both sisters, were raped allegedly by four men at Kenduadih near here, police said on Wednesday.

The man accused, a friend of the elder sister, had called her to meet him on Tuesday evening, Dhanbad (Rural) SP said. The 15-year-old girl took her 12-year-old sibling, he said, where the accused and three others raped them.

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**IAS officer, who quit over Kashmir, stopped from visiting library**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE

IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who quit the services over "denial of freedom of expression" to people of Jammu & Kashmir, has claimed he was barred from visiting the library at the Savitribai Phule Pune University here.

However, library officials at the Jaykar Knowledge Resource Centre said by asking for an application for Mr. Gopinathan's visit, the institute was following due procedure.

"Got the taste! In Pune university, students enthusiastically called me to the Jaykar library saying a lot of UPSC aspirants study there & would like to meet. Thats when the librarian realised who I am & asked to submit an application for consideration to enter the library!" he tweeted.

"But then the students told that no political activity against Government is allowed in the university/hostel by regulation! Anyway, being thrown out is not a good feeling. But counts as new experience. So all good," he tweeted.

## CM, Uddhav share stage; alliance announcement yet to happen

Both declare that the grand alliance would form the next government

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Even before the official announcement of an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena, the top State leaders of both parties on Wednesday shared the stage in Navi Mumbai and declared that their coalition would form the next government.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray were at the event that was organised to mark the 86th birth anniversary of Mathadi leader Annasaheb Patil and the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Mathadi Act.

"The next government will be ours. The next government will be of grand alliance," said Mr. Thackeray, assuring Mathadi workers gathered at the program that the issue of their housing will be solved by the next government.

Mr. Fadnavis too hinted that the next government will be of the alliance. "The measures that we are undertaking for the betterment of the workers are half done. We have done some and will do the rest once we are back," the Chief Minister said.

"Cidco (Navi Mumbai planning agency) is constructing homes for Mathadi workers and under the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana), a subsidy of ₹2.5 lakh is being given for Mathadi for construction of houses," he said.

According to sources, the



**In one colour:** Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis share the dais during the 86th birth anniversary celebrations of Mathadi leader Annasaheb Patil at APMC market in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday. ■ YOGESH MHATRE

talks of an alliance between both parties is almost over and the announcement is likely to be made on September 29. The Sena will be given 126 seats while the BJP will contest on 162, the sources said. However, neither party confirmed the number.

At Wednesday's programme, Mr. Thackeray said Annasaheb Patil and his father Balasaheb Thackeray, the late Sena chief, taught Marathi residents of Mumbai and Maharashtra to fight for their rights.

"The Mathadi worker has a spine. He should now aspire to become an owner. Mathadi workers should be able to live with strength and dignity. What is the use of

leaders who can't honour their commitments?" he asked.

### Core committee meeting

Meanwhile, amidst delay over announcing a seat-sharing deal with the Shiv Sena for the October elections, the core committee of the Maharashtra unit of BJP met on Tuesday night to assess the party's region-wise strength and to discuss the possible allocation of seats.

A senior BJP leader said on Wednesday that it was a routine meeting of the committee with Mr. Fadnavis.

"The assessment is necessary for planning the BJP's campaign because the party has increased its strength in rural as well as urban areas

since the 2014 polls. There are certain areas where the BJP needs to take extra efforts. A discussion was also needed on the pitfalls that the party has to avoid in case of rebellion by disgruntled ticket-seekers," he said.

State unit BJP president Chandrakant Patil had clarified on Tuesday that the final seat-sharing deal would be announced by Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Thackeray.

In the 2014 Assembly elections, the BJP won 122 out of the 260 seats it had contested in the 288-member House.

Subsequently, it increased its strength by winning elections to local as well as civic bodies across the State.

"Almost all the municipal corporations are now with BJP," the leader said.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP won 23 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats while Shiv Sena bagged 18 seats.

"The increased strength of the BJP has put a challenge before the party in the form of more than one aspirant vying for most of the constituencies. The BJP needs to contain the aspirations of party workers so that it would not affect the outcome of the polls," he said.

When asked about the pre-poll alliance with Sena, the leader said, talks are on, but pointed out that since the BJP and Sena have induced leaders from the Congress and NCP there is little scope to implement the old seat-sharing formula.

(With PTI inputs)

## Rain-soaked Gujarat expects bumper peanut, cotton harvest

State has received over 125% of the season's rainfall till date

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat is expecting a bumper production of the cash crops groundnut and cotton, with the State having received more than 125% of the season's total rainfall. A total of 205 dams in the State are filled to 93.73% of their capacity.

According to the data provided by the State Emergency Operation Centre, the State has received 1,029.54 mm rainfall, almost 162.17% of its average annual rainfall this season in a surplus monsoon after several years.

Kutch and South Gujarat received the maximum rainfall, 144.58% and 137.73% respectively. North Gujarat, however, received only 96.69% of the annual average rainfall, with the lowest rainfall recorded in Banaskantha and Mehsana districts at 89.1% and 89.28% respectively.

Other districts like Patan,



Thanks to a favourable monsoon, a bumper groundnut harvest is likely.

Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Mahisagar have also received below-average rainfall this season, the data showed. Chhota Udepur in central Gujarat received the maximum rainfall for a district in the State, at 163.98%, followed by Bharuch in the South at 161.08%.

The Narmada Water Resources and Water Supply Department said all 205 dams or reservoirs in the State are filled with 23,641.6

million cubic feet water as on September 25. Of these, nine dams have reached 100% of their capacity; 46 dams are 90% full, while 10 others are filled to 80% to 90% of their storage capacity.

The State's main water source, the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada, is 98.54% full and is currently at a level of 138.25 m as against its full reservoir level of 138.68 m.

Meanwhile, the State government has decided to start online registration for the procurement of groundnut for 2019-20 under the Centre's Minimum Support Price scheme from October 1.

Civil Supply Minister Jayesh Radadiya said actual procurement would start after Diwali in 124 centers across the State under CCTV monitoring and foolproof arrangements for storage. This year, the MSP has been fixed at ₹5,090 per quintal.

fall during the same time.

"Despite the retreat of the monsoon at hand, there have been robust bouts of rain. The midnight showers of Monday and Tuesday are the result of a local instability generated by a rise in the daytime temperature," said Dr. Anupam Kashyap, head, Weather & Air Pollution Monitoring Unit, IMD.

He said rising temperatures and high moisture levels during the day gave way for convective activities in the night, which led to heavy showers accompanied by

## Intense showers pelt Pune

Downpours cause waterlogging, traffic snarls in city, suburbs

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

The monsoon continued to bedevil commuters as intense showers lashed Pune city and district along with other parts of western Maharashtra in the past 48 hours.

Heavy downpours coupled with thunder from late on Monday and throughout Tuesday led to waterlogging and traffic snarls in a number of areas in the city and its suburbs.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), more rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms was expected in parts of the State on Thursday and the intensity was expected to reduce by the end of September 27.

The city's Shivajinagar area received more than 46 mm rainfall in a single hour during the intervening night between Monday and Tuesday. The area received another 87.3 mm rainfall between Tuesday and Wednesday, while the Pashan area received 71.8 mm rain-



Pedestrians wade through the waterlogged Bibwewadi-Kondhwa road on Wednesday after incessant rainfall in several parts of Pune. ■ MANDAR TANNU

fall during the same time.

"Despite the retreat of the monsoon at hand, there have been robust bouts of rain. The midnight showers of Monday and Tuesday are the result of a local instability generated by a rise in the daytime temperature," said Dr. Anupam Kashyap, head, Weather & Air Pollution Monitoring Unit, IMD.

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## Baramati downs shutters, ED effigy burnt in support of Pawar

Protests by NCP youth wing in Pune, Mumbai, Nashik

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

A day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) initiated a money-laundering probe against Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, his nephew Ajit Pawar and others in the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) loan irregularities, Baramati – the bastion of the Pawar clan – observed a total shutdown in support of the NCP supremo.

State unit BJP president Chandrakant Patil had clarified on Tuesday that the final seat-sharing deal would be announced by Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Thackeray.

Educational institutions, business establishments and shops downed shutters in Baramati and neighbouring Indapur tehsil, while protests organised by the NCP youth wing were staged in Pune, Mumbai, Nashik and other parts of the State including the Marathwada region, especially Beed and Aurangabad districts.

Large crowds, including schoolgoing children, were seen throughout Baramati raising slogans in Mr. Pawar's support, while angry demonstrations by NCP activists were witnessed accompanied by burning of effigies of the ED.

Speaking in Mumbai, former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said no irregularities of ₹25,000 crore had occurred at MSCB.

"After an FIR was lodged against me and others on the direction of the Bombay High Court and the economic offences wing (EOW) of the police was probing the case, a certain individual filed a PIL claiming a scam of ₹25,000 crore had taken place...moreover, Sharad Pawar has no relation whatsoever



Nationalist Congress Party supporters protest in Baramati on Wednesday over Enforcement Directorate case against party chief Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT ■ JIGNESH MISTRY



with this case and neither was he ever a director of this bank. To the best of my knowledge, the total deposits of the bank were ₹13,000 crore. So, how could irregularities of ₹25,000 crore have transpired?" he asked.

"Had there been irregularities of this magnitude [₹25,000 crore], the bank would not have been showing a profit of ₹300 crore today," Mr. Ajit Pawar said.

Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar's grand nephew, Rohit Pawar, hit out at the BJP saying the allegations were clearly politically motivated.

"The ED's probe only illustrate that the BJP has no

real issue to talk about. Since it has failed to deliver on its tall promises, it is now attempting to divert public attention by indulging in such undignified moves and misusing probe agencies," said Mr. Rohit Pawar.

Sandhya Sonawane, head of NCP's youth wing in Ahmednagar, said the State had rattled the BJP.

"As a result, the ruling government is resorting to such base tactics by unleashing the ED on Pawar saheb. However, the public will give a fitting reply in the forthcoming elections," she said.

## Two convicted of being SIMI members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

A court here on Wednesday convicted two men, including a convict in the Mumbai train blasts case, for being members of the banned outfit Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

Nafis Ansari and Ali Alam Shaikh were found guilty under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Judge D.E. Kothalikar sentenced Ansari to a simple imprisonment for three months, which he has already served as an undetrial.

Shaikh was not awarded any jail term as he is already sentenced for the same of

fence (being member of an unlawful organisation) in the 2006 train blasts case, the judge said.

As per the prosecution, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the city police had received information that some SIMI members were planning to commit "disruption" during the Ganesh festival in 2006.

Shabbir Rahemtulla was arrested from Malegaon and Ansari from Govandi. Rahemtulla died during the trial. Ali Alam Shaikh, wanted in the case, was arrested by the Anti-Terrorism Squad for the July 2006 Mumbai train serial blasts.

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice no. MCF/RBL/Tender/Under Frame Fabrication/2019-20/C148 dt. 18.09.2019 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:- Description of work: Fabrication of Under Frame complete as per scope of work. Approx. Value: ₹ 2,05,77,312.00 EMD: ₹ 2,52,900.00 Cost of Tender document: ₹ 10,000.00 only Quantity of work: 350 Under frame. Completion period of work: 12 Months or earlier. • Period of submission of tender document: From 30.09.2019 to 14.10.2019 • Date & time of closing of tender: 14.10.2019 at 12:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) in tender document. ■ Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell

Tender No. MCF-RBL-TTC-Cleaning-2019-20 Due on: 18.10.2019 on prescribed format for the under mentioned work. Description of work: Management and Housekeeping services in Technical Training Centre and its Hostel at MCF/RBL/Lalganj as per scope of work for 03 years (36 months). Approx. Value: ₹ 4,02,64,130.00 (₹ Four Crores Two Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty) only. Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 10: ₹ 3,51,330.00 (₹ Three Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty only). Cost of Tender document: ₹ 10,000.00 Completion period from the date of commencement of work: 36 Months (03 Year) • Date & Time of closing of tender: 18.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Principal/TTC

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice no. MCF/RBL/Tender/fabrication work of WTCC/2019-20/C384 dt. 23.09.2019 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:- Description of work: Outsourcing of fabrication work of WTCC as per scope of work. Approx. Value: ₹ 48,01,125.00 EMD: ₹ 56,000.00 Cost of Tender document: ₹ 3,000.00 only Quantity of work: 175 Coach Set. Completion period of work: 12 Months or earlier. • Period of submission of tender document: From 02.09.2019 to 16.10.2019 at 12:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) in tender document. ■ Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice no. MCF/RBL/Tender/fabrication work of Roof element/2019-20/C383 dt. 23.09.2019 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:- Description of work: Outsourcing of fabrication work of Roof element complete as per scope of work. Approx. Value: ₹ 41,30,000.00 EMD: ₹ 82,600.00 Cost of Tender document: ₹ 3,000.00 only Quantity of work: 250 Coach Set. Completion period of work: 12 Months or earlier. • Period of submission of tender document: From 02.10.2019 to 16.10.2019 • Date & time of closing of tender: 16.10.2019 at 11:45 hrs. • Date & time of opening of tender: 16.10.2019 at 12:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) in tender document. ■ Dy. CME/SMS & House Keeping

E-Tender Notice No.: ELECT-PS-20511-RT Due on: 23.09.2019 On behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/PS, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open-e-t

## IN BRIEF



Telugu actor Kunath Venu Madhav is no more

HYDERABAD  
Telugu actor Kunath Venu Madhav passed away on Wednesday at a city hospital. He was 51 and is survived by wife and two sons. He was ailing for the past few days, and doctors had advised a liver transplant.

## CBI takes over probe into murder of BJP worker

NEW DELHI  
The CBI has taken over the probe into the 2016 murder of BJP worker Yogesh Gowda in Karnataka's Dharwad. Mr. Gowda was found murdered in his gym on June 15, 2016. The State police had earlier completed the probe and filed a chargesheet against six persons on September 9, 2016. However, after the BJP came to power in Karnataka, it recommended a CBI probe.

## Shivakumar's bail plea in money laundering case dismissed

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
A special court on Wednesday dismissed the bail application of Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate earlier this month on money laundering charge.

In the course of arguments, the ED has shown certain documents like the list of 31 bank accounts and other documents of properties, etc. which show that investigation is still at the crucial stage of examining the documents and their nexus

## SC turns down plea to lay down norms for Speakers

Karnataka's V.H. Kageri had sought guidelines from the top court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Karnataka Assembly Speaker V.H. Kageri has urged the Supreme Court, through his lawyer Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, to lay down guidelines for Speakers.

The Supreme Court promptly refused the idea, telling the Speaker that his office is a constitutional one. The court framing guidelines for the Speaker would be an encroachment by the judiciary into the realm of the legislature. The Speaker is the master of the House, the court explained.

"It is high time Your Lordships lay down guidelines for Speakers," Mr. Mehta suggested to a three-judge Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana. Justice Ramana sharply retorted to Mr. Mehta's suggestion.

"How can we lay down

  
It is not defection if you give up membership of a political party for reasons of conscience, then you resign and go back to face the public mandate. This is recognition of the MLAs' right to resign

TUSHAR MEHTA  
SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

guidelines for the Speaker? He is a constitutional authority... We cannot encroach," Justice Ramana shot back at the top law officer.

Mr. Mehta's proposal came in the few minutes he had sought to explain the position of law to the Bench.

**Plea by ex-MLAs**  
His comment came during the hearing of pleas filed by several former Karnataka MLAs against their disqualification by Mr. Kageri's predecessor in the Speaker's of-

fice, K.R. Ramesh Kumar. Seventeen MLAs from the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) were disqualified by Mr. Kumar on the charge of defection.

## Speaker's stand

They argue that they had resigned voluntarily from the House before their disqualification by the Speaker. They have asked the Supreme Court to either stay a recent notification announcing the conduct of by-polls to their constituencies, or in the al-

ternative, allow them to contest the elections due on October 21.

The Solicitor General, for the Speaker, argued that a legislator who first resigns his seat in the Assembly and then joins another party after leaving the House cannot be disqualified under the anti-defection law.

"It is not defection if you give up membership of a political party for reasons of conscience, then you resign and go back to face the public mandate. This is recognition of the MLAs' right to resign," Mr. Mehta submitted.

He argued that changing political parties as an MLA was defection, but resigning from the House and subsequently shifting to another party to face elections does not amount to defection under Schedule 10 of the Constitution.

## Jagan-led A.P. govt. not to clear farm loan dues

G.O. issued by the previous TDP government cancelled

## STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday issued a GO cancelling the orders pertaining to the fourth and fifth instalments of the debt redemption scheme issued by the previous TDP government at the fag end of its term.

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government, however, did not assign any reason for cancelling the orders. It merely said GO 38 dated March 10 was being cancelled following a report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of A.P. Rythu Sadhikara Samstha.

With this, the farmers, ap-

parently, will have to clear dues amounting to ₹7,950 crore. The figure may go up if the interest burden is also taken into account. The government is supposed to deposit the dues in more than 31.44 lakh accounts in the last two instalments.

SRCP leaders have been asserting that the government will not clear the dues under the debt redemption scheme. People gave mandate to the TDP for five years to implement its electoral promises but it failed to do so, they maintained.

The previous government had resolved to waive loans in five phases and had cleared three. For the last

two instalments, it issued a Budget Release Order (BRO) in March but made no provision in the interim budget presented by it in February.

Replies to a question in the Assembly in July, Agriculture Minister K. Kanna Babu said the last two instalments were pending. On the measures for clearing the dues, the Minister merely said the government was examining the matter.

The scheme was a flagship programme of the TDP government. Banks had arrived at a figure of ₹87,000 crore, but the government brought it down to ₹24,000 crore after issuing guidelines.

## Tension in Piravom after rival factions converge on church

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The District Collector issued prohibitory order under Section 144 of CrPC banning 67 persons from entering the limits of Piravom municipality after the premises of the historic Piravom St. Mary's Church witnessed tense scenes with both factions of the Malankara Church converging at the venue, and confronting each other over the right to celebrate the Mass for the whole of Wednesday.

The Jacobite group, around 50 strong, led by parish priests, celebrated the Mass inside the church in the presence of Catholicos Baselios Thomas I and Metropolitan Trustee Joseph Mar Gregorios and senior bishops. At the same time, the police colluded with the Jacobites to allow the latter's

Members of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church inside the St. Mary's Church in Piravom on Wednesday.

entered outside the gates of the church demanding that the police provide them protection to enter the church as entry into the church on Tuesday night.

The Orthodox group, under the leadership of Bishop Thomas Mar Athanasios, stuck to its stand and did not budge as the confrontation continued despite heavy showers during the better part of the day. A large posse of police personnel kept guard over the situation, that often threatened to go out of hand.

entry into the church on Tuesday night.

The Orthodox group, under the leadership of Bishop Thomas Mar Athanasios, stuck to its stand and did not budge as the confrontation continued despite heavy showers during the better part of the day. A large posse of police personnel kept guard over the situation, that often threatened to go out of hand.

The police had been on guard since the Orthodox group sought police protection last week to enter the church and celebrate Mass. But the group alleged that the police colluded with the Jacobites to allow the latter's

**झारखण्ड सरकार, झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण**  
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विस्ता मुद्दा फुटबॉल स्टेडियम, मोराबादी, रोडी

sajha9@gmail.com phone No- 0651-2550522

## Re-e-TENDER NOTICE

In two parts Part-I (Technical and Commercial) and Part-II (price part) are invited from the reputed tenderers having good experience of following similar type of Civil works and having sound financial status;

NIT No.	Name of the works	Estimated cost in Rs/-	Earnest money to be deposited in Rs/-	Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable) in Rs/-	Time of completion of work.
4/PR/SAJH A/19-20	Repair of BirsMunda Stadium (A,B,C,D,E,F & H block) at Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	4,86,49,500/-	4,86,500/-	10,000/-	12 months
5/PR/SAJH A/19-20	Renovation of compound wall, RCC drain with cover & paving work etc at Birs Munda Stadium (A,B,C,D,E, F & H block), Morabadi, Ranchi.	1,10,51,600/-	2,21,100/-	10,000/-	08 months
6/PR/SAJH A/19-20	Repair of plumbing & sanitation work at BirsMunda Stadium (A,B,C,D,E, F,G & H block) at Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	1,22,10,328/-	2,44,300/-	10,000/-	08 months

Availability of tender documents on website

Last date and time for uploading of e-tender

Last date and time for physical submission of original Demand Draft towards cost of BOQ and Earnest Money.

Date and time for opening of Tender Part-I (Technical and Commercial)

Date and time for opening of Tender Part-II (Price Part)

Tendering Officer and address for communication

1. Re-e-Tender documents and BOQ including terms & conditions, specification etc. can be downloaded and submitted online on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.

2. Cost of tender/ BOQ, Earnest money with one set of uploaded tender documents before one day of the date of opening of tender on 10-10-2019 at 4:00 P.M. In the office of Executive Director, Sports Authority of Jharkhand, Morabadi, Ranchi shall be deposited. Only those tenders will entertained who's cost of tender/BOQ and Earnest money and tender documents is received at 4:00 PM before one day of the date of opening of tender.

Jiye Ab tak na samjhe, wo kahanee hain, m. mukhe bharad mat karne parne hain.

PR 21765 (Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs)19-20#D

Sd/-  
Executive Director  
Sports Authority of Jharkhand

**कार्यालय**  
विद्युत कार्यपालक अधिकार्यालय  
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

## शुद्धि-पत्र

सर्वसाधारण को संचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1679 दिनांक 19.09.19 से प्रेषित तथा PR No. 217505 (Energy) 19-20 D को दिनांक 21.09.19 द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित अतिअल्कारीन ई-सिविटा आमंत्रण संस्कार संख्या ३० १२ / १९-२० में Date of submission of hard copy की तिथि ०१.१०.१९ को ३.३० P.M. एवं Technical Bid Opening Date ०९.१०.१९ को १०.३० A.M. के स्थान पर कमशः Date of submission of hard copy दिनांक ०१.१०.१९ को १.०० P.M. एवं Technical Bid Opening Date ०१.१०.१९ को ३.०० P.M. पढ़ा जाय। सभी शर्तें व्यापार रखेगा।

बूद्ध बूद्ध वर्ती वर्ती तो बूद्ध को तर्केण

विद्युत कार्यपालक अधिकार्यालय  
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

P.R.217879 Energy(19-20)-D

THE HIMALAYA PUBLICATIONS LTD.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi HP on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the Principal manufacturer / OEM (VRV System) or Authorized agency of OEM for the following works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No. Name of work Estimated cost Starting date for downloading Bid Earnest Money Deadline for submission of bid

1. Construction of MCH Building at Sunder Nagar District-Mandi HP (SH: Providing VRV System therein HVAC System without lobby/waiting area) Rs. 1224586/- 09.10.2019 at 10.00 A.M. Rs. 155000/- 18.10.2019 at 10.00 A.M.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders and Technical Qualification Criteria from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

Executive Engineer Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi HP 175001

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP/2220/19-20

General Government of Jharkhand

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities, and OBC Welfare Department

Ranchi-8

Ref no. 1145Ranchi Dated 20.09.2019

## Short Expression of Interest

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Film Agencies/Production houses or Firm /Govt. Organization

(Preference will be given to them who were born and brought up in Jharkhand and are fully acquainted with the cultural and religious aspects their language and oral history, songs and dances, fairs and festivals, traditions and rituals, history and philosophy of the tribes. Listed for study or a technical and making of Video documentary Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-2020:-

**TOPIC: On the Socio-Economic-Cultural-Religious aspects of Jharkhand Tribal People (Tribes of Ranchi and Other districts) residing in Andaman and Nicobar with Special reference to change in their livelihood pattern.**

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 10/10/2019 by 4:30 P.M. The price should be all-inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open-ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in a sealed envelope on or before the due date.

The technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: On the Socio-Economic-Cultural-Religious aspects of Jharkhand Tribal People (Tribes of Ranchi and Other districts) residing in Andaman and Nicobar with Special reference to change in their livelihood pattern.**

(Please specify the name of the concerned work)" written on the top of the envelope.

These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

Technical Bid will be opened on 16/10/2019 at 3.00 P.M. in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

**Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for the presentation of the project.</b**

# New IPCC report warns of dire threat to oceans

Increased temperatures, marine heatwaves, more frequent extreme El Niño and La Niña events likely

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
With representatives from nearly 200 countries at the United Nations Climate Summit underway in the United States, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the apex referee for scientific evidence on the impact of global warming – made public a special report on Wednesday that underlined the dire changes taking place in oceans, glaciers and ice-deposits on land and sea.

## Unprecedented

"Over the 21st century, the ocean is projected to transition to unprecedented conditions with increased tem-

peratures, further ocean acidification, marine heatwaves and more frequent extreme El Niño and La Niña events," according to a summary of the report made available to policy-makers.

The report updates scientific literature available since 2015 – when the IPCC released its comprehensive 5th Assessment Report – and summarises the disastrous impacts of warming based on current projections of global greenhouse gas emissions.

"It is virtually certain that the global ocean has warmed unabated since 1970 and has taken up more than 90% of the excess heat



**Disaster ahead:** The report updates literature available since 2015 and summarises the impacts of warming. ■ PTI

in the climate system (high confidence). Since 1993, the rate of ocean warming has more than doubled. Marine heatwaves have very likely

doubled in frequency since 1982 and are increasing in intensity," the report notes.

The Southern Ocean accounted for 35%-43% of the

total heat gain in the upper 2,000 m of global ocean between 1970 and 2017, and its share increased to 45%-62% between 2005 and 2017.

The 'Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate' was prepared following an IPCC Panel decision in 2016 to prepare three Special Reports and follows the Special Reports on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5), and on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL).

mit themselves to capping global temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of the century. "A major impact is in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Regions," said Anjal Prakash, a researcher at The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) School of Advanced Studies, and among those involved with the report.

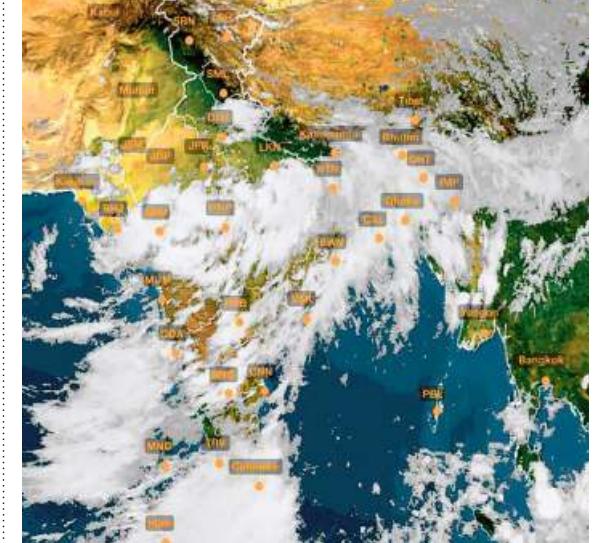
"Floods will become more frequent and severe in the mountainous and downstream areas of the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra river basins, because of an increase in extreme precipitation events. The severity of flood events is expected to more than double towards the end of the century," she added.

## Countries' commitment

The 1.5°C report was a key input used in negotiations at Katowice, Poland last year for countries to com-

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)  
**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	66.5	32.0	24.0	Kozhikode	4.6...	32.4...	19.1
Ahmedabad	—	34.2	26.3	Kurnool	24.8...	33.1...	1.2
Aizawl	36.0...	24.9...	19.1	Lucknow	0.8...	29.5...	25.2
Allahabad	—	29.9	25.8	Madurai	3.4...	31.8...	24.1
Bengaluru	23.6...	28.8...	21.0	Mangaluru	16.3...	32.3...	23.5
Bhopal	2.2...	29.8	23.8	Mumbai	30.2...	31.3...	24.0
Bhubaneswar	126.0...	28.5	23.2	Mysuru	—	29.8	19.1
Chandigarh	—	33.0...	25.7	New Delhi	—	34.2...	24.5
Chennai	10.0...	32.2...	23.2	Patna	—	30.3...	25.8
Coimbatore	—	32.5...	23.6	Port Blair	2.8...	30.5...	24.2
Dehradun	30.7...	32.2...	22.8	Puducherry	0.8...	33.2...	22.0
Gangtok	7.4...	19.5...	15.7	Pune	87.3...	32.2...	20.8
Goa	53.7...	—	23.8	Raipur	21.0...	31.4...	24.6
Guwahati	51.2...	27.6...	22.4	Ranchi	20.8...	29.2...	21.0
Hubballi	—	27.0...	22.0	Shillong	10.0...	22.6...	15.4
Hyderabad	75.0...	30.8...	23.2	Shimla	—	23.1...	14.5
Imphal	5.3...	24.9	19.5	Srinagar	—	—	—
Jaipur	0.8...	31.8...	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	14.3...	28.9...	24.2
Kochi	57.8...	29.0...	23.1	Tiruchi	1.4...	33.3...	25.2
Kohima	9.2...	22.0...	15.8	Vijaywada	5.9...	31.1...	25.0
Kolkata	80.5...	30.9...	24.3	Visakhapatnam	49.0...	31.4...	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	93	139	116	128	103	...
Bengaluru	03	38	56	36	—	...
Chennai	05	13	69	37	—	...
Delhi	06	42	28	72	275	...
Hyderabad	02	16	24	—	52	...
Kolkata	03	36	65	16	28	...
Lucknow	04	35	59	105	—	...
Mumbai	07	23	90	18	—	...
Pune	86	08	67	28	28	...
Visakhapatnam	16	45	44	28	34	...

Yesterday

In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Ahmedabad, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 138 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Asanol, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

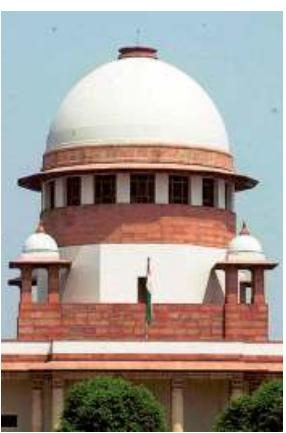
**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

## Unnao: CBI granted more time

SC gives 2 weeks to file chargesheet in accident case



### LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday granted relief to Rampur MP Azam Khan as it issued a stay on his arrest in connection with the cases filed against him by the Uttar Pradesh government. He has been slapped with over a two dozen cases, including charges of land grabbing.

### CBI SP applies for voluntary retirement

NEW DELHI

Satish Dagar, the Central Bureau of Investigation Superintendent of Police who is part of the team probing a case against the then Special Director Rakesh Asthana, has applied for voluntary retirement, a CBI spokesperson said on Wednesday.

**ED attaches assets worth ₹33 crore in IOB case**

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth ₹33.84 crore in a buyers'-credit fraud case involving ₹299 crore of the Indian Overseas Bank. The probe is based on an FIR registered against IOB employee Ashu Mehra, Heights International, Vision Procon and Saibhakti Impex.

### Kashmir's famed saffron gets GI tag

SRINAGAR

Kashmir's famed saffron has finally been granted the Geographic Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to boost its market and ensure quality control. Officials said the final meeting regarding the tag was held on September 23 in New Delhi.

## Crash course



**Charred remains:** People gathering at the site where a MiG-21 trainer jet crashed near the Gwalior airbase in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. Two pilots ejected safely. ■ PTI

## Drug regulators caution against ranitidine use

Patients asked to avoid over-the-counter use; State bodies told to take measures

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Indian doctors have advised patients here to avoid over-the-counter (OTC) use of popular antacid ranitidine, following concerns over its contamination by cancer-causing substances, with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) now having started the process of "checking for any ad-

verse reactions of the drug".

CDSCO has written to State regulators, asking that they "communicate to the manufacturers of ranitidine active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and formulations under your jurisdiction to verify their products and take appropriate measures to ensure patient safety".

The regulator notes that it is aware of reports from oth-

er countries that some ranitidine medicines contain a nitrosamine impurity called N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) at low levels.

**Probably carcinogenic'** The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) V.G. Somani in the letter further notes that NDMA has been classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as "probably carcinogenic" to humans.

"Ranitidine is approved for multiple indications in the country and available in various formulations including tablets, injections, etc. The drug is a prescription drug included in Schedule-H and should be sold by retail only under prescription of Registered Medical Practitioner," the letter noted.

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"Ranit



## The real deal

Even a limited trade agreement between India and the U.S. is some distance away

After the backslapping bonhomie and high of Houston, it was time for a reality check in New York. Contrary to expectations that were consciously generated and managed by both sides, India and the United States failed to arrive at a limited trade deal that was to have been announced during this visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the U.S. The deal stumbled over duties imposed by India on ICT (information and communication technology) products – the U.S. wanted the 20% duty on mobile phones and internet switches to be reduced or eliminated. America is also understood to have demanded greater access to the Indian market for medical devices such as stents and knee implants apart from its dairy and agricultural products. These are sensitive products politically for the Indian side as Mr. Modi has often taken credit for making them affordable. Loosening price controls now is not an option for India as that would push up prices of these products in the country. For its part, India wanted the Generalised System of Preferences which gives preferential market access for its products in the U.S., restored. These are so far as a “limited trade deal” goes; a full scale trade agreement would pose bigger challenges on issues such as intellectual property, e-commerce and the ticklish subject of HIB visas.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale has said that the two sides “narrowed” down their differences and made “significant progress” but it is clear that there is still a wide gulf even assuming that India is willing to go more than half the way to strike a deal. That a deal could not be struck despite Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal winging his way to New York to lead negotiations tells the story. For U.S. President Trump, even a limited deal with India will be something to talk about as he approaches election year. This is especially because trade talks with China are going nowhere. China has not only taken Mr. Trump’s punitive tariffs on its chin but has retaliated in kind, picking the products that could hurt his constituency and supporters. This explains the hectic, behind-the-scenes activity with India in the last few weeks. With its economy in the grip of a major slowdown, any concessions from India on imports of American products may not have gone down well both politically and in economic terms. Going by the limited information in the public domain, it appears that India has played tough and refused to yield to U.S. demands. Trade negotiations are never easy and for them to succeed, both sides have to believe in a policy of give and take. It does not help if one side tries to bulldoze the other into submitting totally to its interests. At this point in time it does seem that even a limited trade deal between India and the U.S. is some distance away.

## Brexit Interrupted

Boris Johnson has lost his way while seeking to navigate Britain out of the European Union

The U.K. Supreme Court’s landmark ruling that the prorogation of the British Parliament was unlawful has rendered Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s continuance morally untenable. While the judges dwelt at length on the limits of executive power and the detrimental effects of the suspension on the country’s democratic process, they scrupulously steered clear of pronouncing any views on Britain’s withdrawal from the EU. Yet, eurosceptics have attacked the verdict as one that was influenced by a pro-remain establishment elite. For his part, Mr. Johnson remains defiant that he may seek another prorogation to commence a fresh session with the Queen’s address. There is no indication that he would step down. Notwithstanding its response, the government’s options over leaving the EU have considerably reduced. Above all, Mr. Johnson is duty-bound to respect the law enacted by Parliament earlier this month to prevent him from taking the U.K. out of the EU without an agreement on October 31. Failing which, he is obliged to seek a three-month extension under Article 50 of the EU treaty.

With the 21 Conservative rebel MPs sacked for defying the whip on that crucial legislation, Mr. Johnson also lost his majority in the Commons during that tumultuous week before the prorogation. His attempt to circumvent the will of Parliament by calling a general election was similarly rebuffed. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has in the past demanded the government’s resignation over its failure to negotiate an EU agreement that could command cross-party approval. But in the changed circumstances of recent weeks, he has rightly prioritised securing a further extension from the EU pending a definitive agreement, over moving a vote of no-confidence against Mr. Johnson’s minority government. That position does not seem to warrant modification even in the aftermath of the Supreme Court verdict, unless the Labour leader’s alternative of a national unity government – only to see through the EU extension and subsequent elections – draws wider support. Mr. Corbyn’s party is also correct about its decision to defer calls for a second referendum until it has captured power. Retaining the latter as the very last option would command itself as a democratic alternative both to EU remainers and leavers. The Labour party’s current stance is consistent with the country’s utmost urgency to avert a costly and chaotic exit, as also to install a stable government at Westminster. The introduction of customs checks in Northern Ireland, as an alternative to a U.K.-wide customs union, is a possible item in the fresh proposals Mr. Johnson’s team is expected to unveil in Brussels in early October. If they elicit backing from the rest of the bloc, the next challenge would be to gain domestic approval. A third Brexit extension would be insurance against uncertainty on those two counts.

# An award and an unholy trade-off

Being the ‘Global Goalkeeper’ stands in contrast with the government’s script of providing social goods but not freedoms



NEERA CHANDHOKE

The Gates Foundation has awarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi its annual ‘Global Goalkeeper’ Award for initiating policies to advance the cause of public health and the building of several million toilets. The Swachh Bharat Mission and policies and programmes to build toilets can hardly be faulted, even if the outcomes are disputed. The award has, however, set off a politically charged debate within and outside India. A substantial number of global human rights activists, and three Nobel Prize winners, have criticised the Gates Foundation for naming Mr. Modi as a beneficiary of this prestigious award. Under his leadership, they write, India has descended into dangerous and deadly chaos that has consistently undermined human rights and democracy. “This is particularly troubling to us as the stated mission of your foundation is to preserve life and fight inequity,” wrote Nobel laureates Mairead Maguire, a peace activist from Northern Ireland, Tawakkol Abdul-Salam Karman, a Yemeni journalist and politician, and Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian lawyer and political activist.

### Freedoms at stake

This is not the first time that the trade-off between the right to life, liberty and freedom of expression on the one hand, and state provision of social goods on the other, has troubled theorists and defenders of human rights. Benevolent

dictators have accomplished precisely this feat. They grant to their people the basic preconditions of life, but take away the right to freedom. Mr. Modi’s government has followed the script faithfully. The government concentrates on the delivery of social goods. The policy reaped rich electoral dividends in May 2019.

At the same time, human rights activists have been jailed without a shred of substantive evidence, civil society organisations are denied funds and harassed, mob violence is routinely dished out to members of the minority community, 19 lakh people have been declared non-residents in Assam, media houses have to fall in line if they want to survive, prominent Opposition politicians are put into prison and humiliated without regard for due process, and an army of vicious trolls ensures that no one dares engage with the government. Above all, we see massive violations of rights in Jammu and Kashmir, from the arbitrary dilution of the provisions of Article 370, to the infringement of every fundamental right granted by the Constitution. A new question hangs heavily over the horizon. Are citizens of India, heirs of a major freedom struggle that took on the gigantic British Empire in the cause of freedom, satisfied with, in Marx’s words, ‘a mess of pottage’ instead of the right to life, liberty and freedom of expression?

### An unsettling swap

An affirmative answer might well be a tragedy in the making. We witness the forging of an unholy swap between toilets, gas connections, drinking water, and freedom. The beleaguered people of J&K are offered development as balm for their wounds. But development is the original chimera.



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What constitutes development, development for whom, at what cost, who loses and who wins? Freedom is natural to human kind, it is part of the human condition, it lies at the heart of democratic theory, it is the reason why democracy exists, and it justifies the existence of democracy.

In his inaugural speech as the President of South Africa on May 10, 1994, the great statesman Nelson Mandela summarised the role of freedom in history: “Let freedom reign. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement.” Mandela knew history, he knew that inglorious unfreedom motivated people to fight glorious battles for freedom. Positioning themselves against regimes bent on appropriating power to control what people thought, what their actions were, what they read, heard, wrote of, spoke of, dramatised and what transactions they participated in, democratic movements throughout history have held up the flag of freedom as the ‘absence of external impediments’. “Yes Freedom!” Lord Byron was to write in his *Childe Harold*, “yet thy banner, torn, but flying, Streams like the thunder-storm against the wind.”

The emergence of liberty as a dominant and coherent concept in political discourse during the

French Revolution in 1789, signified a ruptural moment in the biography of the political. The recognition of the significance of freedom represented the acme of what John Stuart Mill called the struggle between liberty and authority. The idea of freedom is in direct contrast to paternalistic statecraft, or the belief that those who would be controllers of our destiny know better than us what we need, aspire, and strive towards. These people might be colonialists, or our own rulers. It does not matter, fight we must against unfreedom, as people have fought since the 18th century.

### Challenging unfreedom

We have come a long way since then. From the last decades of the 19th century, right into the first two decades of the 21st, victims of unfreedom began to speak back to makers of oppression and exploitation. Political movements of the working classes, of the peasantry, of women denied political rights, of the colonised, and of religious, linguistic, and racial minorities directly challenged unfreedom as a violation of what is due to human beings. As this upsurge imprinted collective consciousness, it impacted both political practices and normative political theory.

Today, political theorists realise that bare concern about freedom is simply not enough. A hungry individual cannot be a free individual. Poverty and hunger which trap human beings in a never-ending spiral of want and deprivation diminish freedom. These maladies of the human condition strip her of the option to do, or not to do. A person may be theoretically free to do whatever she thinks makes her life worthwhile. And yet she may not be able to do so for other reasons – because she has never been

to school. In order to, say, write a novel an individual must have a certain amount of literary competence, she must have access to education, to books in the library or in the bookshops, she must be able to attend literary discussion groups if she wants to, to simply be a part of a community that appreciates reading and writing. If a budding literary giant cannot afford to do so, because she belongs to a poor family, she cannot be free. Therefore, there is need for social goods as prerequisites of a life lived the way we want to live.

### Democratic obligation

The democratic state is obliged to provide citizens with the basic pre-conditions for the exercise of freedom: health, education, sustainable living wage, satisfying work conditions, food and a decent standard of life. These social goods are, however but, milestones on the road to freedom. A democratic government can hardly give people subsidised food, and take away their right to express what they desire and dream of, what they expect of their representatives, or what is owed to them as free citizens of a free country. The right to freedom tells each ruler: this is how human beings have to be treated, this is their due; below this you cannot fall. This right cannot be dispensed with.

The stand-off between toilets and the right to freedom is based on false premises. Without the provision of social goods, the right of human beings to make their own lives is neutralised. But a life of unfreedom is no life at all. Social goods are enabling, freedom is life-giving. Without freedom we are stripped of our humanity.

Neera Chandhoke is a former Professor of Political Science at Delhi University

## Different peas in different pods

Unlike IT, it would be a mistake to look at the biotechnology sector through the lens of employment generation only



BINAY PANDA

India is among the first countries to set up a specialised agency for the development of research and human resources in the biotechnology sector. More than three decades later, it is imperative to ask: has the biotechnology sector lived up to its promise? Or was it all faux optimism? More importantly, is the sector poised to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with, if not beat, the IT sector in creating jobs for the future? One needs to go beyond the traditional indicators such as the numbers of institutions formed, students and scientists trained, and the number of patents filed to judge the sector’s performance, and its impact on the economy and society as a whole.

Modern biotechnological research is expensive. It requires a highly trained and skilled workforce and access to expensive instruments. So far, most of the high-quality research output has come from a handful of institutions with better scientific infrastructure. The rest, which forms the bulk of the research publications, is of mediocre quality. This is primarily due to a “publish or perish” culture that incentivises numbers over quality. Over the years, the focus of research has slowly shifted from fundamental to applied research. Why has India not produced another Jagadish Chandra Bose or G.N. Ramachandran despite the biotechnology research budget growing several folds? The fruits of applied research will only come when we

start investing in basic research without asking for quick returns. While continuing and increasing the share of funding in basic research, the government should encourage and incentivise the private sector to invest substantially in applied research. Compared to the developed economies (the United States), biotechnology research in India is mainly funded by the public exchequer. Unless the private sector starts supporting applied research and engages with academic institutions, the innovation in applied and translational biotechnology will be minimal.

### Field-specific issues

Let us look at the creation of human resources and jobs in the biotechnology sector. In India, unlike the IT sector, a large pool of the English-speaking workforce, low wages of scientists (compared to the developed economies) and a sizeable institutional research base have not helped create more jobs in biotechnology. There may be several possible reasons.

Biotechnology research often requires access to laboratories with high-end scientific infrastructure, the supply of expensive chemicals and reagents with minimum shipping time between the supplier and the user, and a disciplined work culture and documentation practice due to regulatory and intellectual property filing requirement. Additionally, unlike the products and solutions from the IT industry, biotechnology products and solutions often require ethical and regulatory clearance, making the process long, expensive and cumbersome.

As the nature of the work in the biotechnology sector is specialised, most jobs are filled with experienced and skilled scientists leaving the demand for young and inexperienced ones low. In a glo-



bal marketplace, having a large number of young professionals hungry to work at meagre wage coupled with the need of large corporations in the West to get work done cheaper created some of the large IT companies in India.

### Advantage China

However, for the biotechnology industry, the same honour went to China. Unlike India, China has many more labs with the best of scientific infrastructure; each with more number of skilled human resources trained in regimental work culture and trained to practise rigorous documentation.

Chinese students and scientists outnumber Indians nearly 5:1 in most American universities in the life sciences/biology-related disciplines.

A booming economy and a higher science budget coupled with a flexible hiring system have made Chinese universities and research labs attract many overseas Chinese scientists. Our government needs to make the process of hiring in our universities and national labs simpler and flexible, not necessarily provide more salary, to attract the bright overseas Indian scientists.

Last, let us look at innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology creation. Unlike the IT sector, the biotechnology sector requires

years of experience in the domain, access to labs with sophisticated instruments, sustained and long-term funding to innovate. The government has been supporting biotech entrepreneurs. Initiatives through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) of the Department of Biotechnology to support the innovation ecosystems have resulted in an impressive outcome. For example, the funding has helped startup companies make nearly 50 biotechnology-related products that are in the market today. Moving beyond this, however, will require a different strategy and understanding of the mature biotech-led innovation and economy ecosystems. Two successful hotbeds for biotech innovation, Boston and Silicon Valley in the U.S., may provide us some clues.

### A road map

Along with the availability of funding, infrastructure and skilled workforce, the presence of top-notch research institutions and universities in the vicinity make these two places among the most attractive locations for biotech startup companies anywhere. Unlike the IT and e-commerce space, ideas for biotechnology companies are initiated in scientific research labs while their parent academic institutions work as feeders of intellectual property. Often technology is incubated, refined and tested for years in academic labs before it gets spun out. Therefore, and unlike the IT sector, a sustained innovation and product development model in the biotechnology field without enriching the academic institutions is not possible.

The government is very encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship, but the culture of institutions and scientists to be

entrepreneurial will take time. This will require a flexible policy in the institutes to allow scientists to incubate startup companies in their labs while retaining their positions. Second, the government should let scientists from research institutions and universities take unpaid leave to join the industry for a fixed period. Similarly, the government should relax rules to appoint researchers from industry in faculty positions with the freedom to teach, participate, and take students. This academia-industry linkage will do the much-needed communication and understanding of the problems at both ends. Without a sustained effort in encouraging and promoting science-driven innovation in our academic institutions, and a robust academia-industry collaboration, biotechnology-led innovation will not aid the nation’s economic growth.

The future of biotechnology is bright in India. However, the sector is not going to displace the IT sector anytime soon in employment generation. Discoveries in biotechnology may help us solve some of the pressing societal issues of our time: cleaning our rivers, producing life-saving drugs, feeding our growing population with nutritious food and helping us clean the air we breathe. Therefore, it will be a mistake to look at the biotechnology sector through the lens of employment generation only. The need for the use of artificial intelligence-based tools and applications of big data in biology will leverage India’s strength in IT and move biotech innovations faster to the marketplace. Till then, India needs to do things patiently and work on the right side of the ethical and regulatory boundaries.

Binay Panda is at Ganit Labs, Bengaluru

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Defining moment

The words of 16-year-old climate activist, Greta Thunberg, at the UN climate summit in New York, that her dreams and childhood had been stolen by the empty words of leaders has highlighted in a stunning and candid manner the agony of the next generation as far as the climate crisis is concerned. If activist and Nobel winner Malala Yousafzai has risen to become the face of children’s education, Greta is sure to be the champion soon for climate change

action and a clean environment. Wise counsel must prevail now and global leaders should walk their talk first (“World” page, “Trump slammed for mocking Greta’s speech”, September 25).

D. V. G. SANKARARAO,  
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

### Trump remark

The bonhomie between the leaders of the largest and oldest democracies is welcome. However for the U.S. President, Donald Trump to call the Indian Prime Minister as the

‘Father of India’ is in bad taste and akin to undermining the true father of the nation. India has only one ‘father of the nation’ and no politician is deserving to be termed this. This is because the core policies of Gandhiji – an observance of simplicity, truth and nonviolence – have long been forgotten by today’s politicians.

KSHIRASAGARA BALAJI RAO,  
Hyderabad

### ‘Intrusion’ in judiciary

One doesn’t know how far the Chief Justice of India

was right in reprimanding lawyers for questioning the recent transfer of judges; to say that they are intrusions does not augur well for the institution. Questioning cannot be called judicial interference. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer once said that we should have enough and more criticism of the judiciary as that alone would speak about the awareness of the people. To silence criticism is not democracy or a part of the rule of law. If lawyers who are an integral part of the judicial system do not

question it, then who else will do it? Not to do so would be dereliction on their part. In recent times, there have been cases of two judges resigning to protest unjust transfers; in one instance it was a case of executive interference which is the real intrusion. It should not be forgotten that some Supreme Court Judges themselves questioned decisions by the Supreme Court Collegium. There has to be a nationwide debate as preservation of the Constitution and the rule of law is the need of the hour.

N.G.R. PRASAD,  
D. NAGASAILA,  
K.K. RAM SIDDHARTH,  
Chennai

**Balakot camp**  
Is it a case of indiscretion on the part of the Indian Army chief, Gen. Rawat? With credible information of this kind, the best thing would have been to be quiet. The group may have shifted by now.

DEVRAJ SAMBASIVAN,  
Alleppey, Kerala

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:  
[www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/](http://www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/)

# The meaning of oneness in 'one nation'

It is the oneness independent of the language we speak or the religion we practise



SUNDAR SARUKKAI

Philosophy as a discipline or practice is not popular these days. However, today we are faced with many challenges in the political arena that need philosophical reflection. Unintentionally, the government's actions and utterances create the possibility of a new climate for public philosophy, which in turn is important for a functioning democratic society.

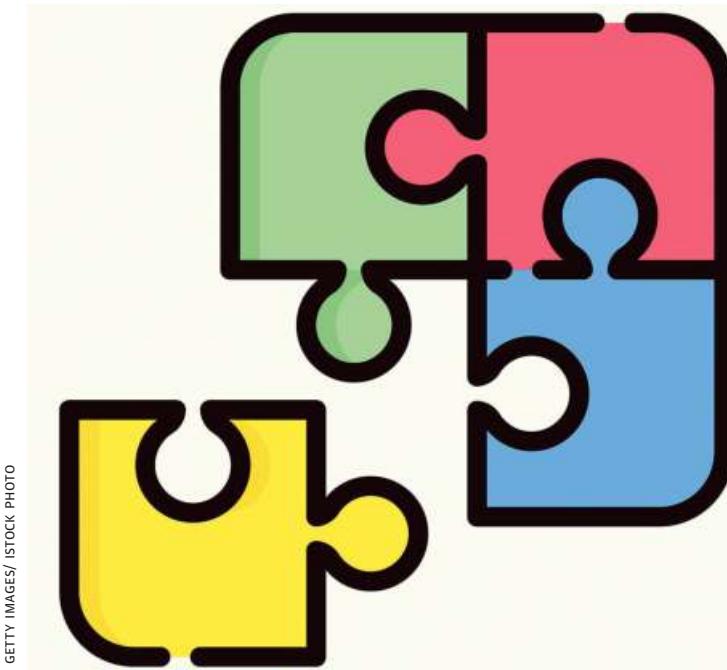
The claim by the Home Minister about 'one language, one nation' is an instance of this. While much has been said about the idea of a nation, here I want to point out how even the word 'one' in this phrase has many complex meanings embedded in it.

#### The notion of one

At the surface it seems as if this idea is about imposing a particular language. But the idea of 'one' that is invoked here is not only philosophically rich but also culturally common. It is impossible not to come across the notion of 'one', whether in philosophy, art, science or everyday cultural practices. And now, increasingly in politics. The search for one underlying truth, one underlying principle, one unified theory or one language has been privileged through the ages in all cultures.

But what is this idea of 'one'? Although even children know about this number, there is nothing simple about it. There are many complex ideas hidden within this number. The most foundational principle of mathematics lies in the simple fact that 1 should always be equal to 1. Whatever you do to numbers or even equations, at the end the rule that cannot be violated is that  $1 = 1$ .

The mathematical one has two other important properties. All integers can be produced by adding one. So if we begin with 1, we can then create  $1+1=2$ , then  $2+1=3$ , and so on until infinity. Infinity itself is imaginable by us only because it is impossible to imagine the largest finite number. This is so because given any number which is the largest, we can always add 1 to it.



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There is another way by which infinity is created from 1 and this is by dividing 1. Starting with 1, we can create fractions out of it such as one-half, one-third, and so on. There are infinite divisions that we can make. We can thus say that one contains the infinity already within it and that it is defined as much by its divisibility as by its countability.

#### The one and the many

In philosophy, these questions are part of a fundamental problem called the problem of the 'one and the many'. It is the puzzle of how it is that many different things can be 'seen' as one and at the same time how the 'one' can be seen as being made up of 'many'. For example, what is in our cognition and language – in the way we experience and understand the world – that makes us perceive the many things in a room as being part of 'one' room?

This is not merely a question about how we perceive the world. The moment we use terms like unity, unified, together, collection, group, set, identity etc., we are actually talking about the idea of 'one'. We do this in our conceptual thinking too. Concepts, one could argue, are really nothing more than creating oneness out of many. For example, the moment we use the concept 'chair', we are putting all the different, individual chairs into 'one' family called 'chair'.

Many great thinkers have repeatedly invoked the idea of one. Narayana Guru imagined a casteless society or, equivalently, a society of only one 'caste', what he called the *manusha jati*. There have been countless thinkers who have called for 'one humanity' as the ideal that we should follow. In the Advaitic philosophy of Shankara, the true reality is a oneness, and difference is only an illusion. Religious traditions focus on liberation, which is nothing but achieving oneness with god, as the central goal of human life.

#### Quality and quantity

So when the government invokes the idea of 'one nation, one language', what could be the meaning of 'one'? It is surely not the meaning associated with the mathematical number. First of all, if it is the number one, then 'one nation' does not make sense since the nation (as it is singular) is always only one. If we say 'one apple', the meaning of one here is that it counts the number of apples leading to terms such as 'one apple', 'two apples', and so on. When the government says 'one nation', it is not using one in this countable sense. That is, the meaning of the word one in 'one nation' is not a measure of quantity.

So what else could it be then? The only possible meaning is if 'one' is understood not as a quantity but only as a quality. It is the quality of oneness that is the meaning of one in 'one nation'. And herein lies the problem: quantity does not matter to the qualitative meaning of one. So even if 100% of the people in the country speak Hindi, it would still not be enough to create the quality of being one nation. (In fact, having a common language to define oneness is not a good idea since it is the common language which makes conflict easier!) At the same time, even if none of the people in a nation share the same language, it is still possible to have the quality of oneness.

Quality cannot be reduced to or totally converted to quantity. Social science methodology is based on this distinction between quantity and quality. So the problem in the government's view is really this: when they use the term 'one nation' they are thinking of one in terms of quantity (such as majority). But the meaning of one in 'one nation' cannot be based on quantity and has to be only a quality. When any of us relates the oneness of nation to sheer numbers of majority, such as majority in language or in religion, then we are not really talking about the quality of oneness. Majority does not create oneness, it only creates bigger numbers. The importance of the quality of oneness lies in its strength to remain a simple 'one' and not get inflated by bigger and emptier numbers. Oneness should not be confused with sameness.

The oneness in 'one nation' is the kind of oneness talked about by Narayana Guru, Shankara, the saints in the Bhakti movement and the Sufi poets. It is the oneness between the humans and the world, and oneness between each one of us independent of the language we speak or the religion we practise. Those who talk about 'one nation' must realise that the true meaning of oneness lies in its quality of unity and togetherness. It does not arise through measurable and majoritarian views but only as a quality that comes through recognising the common humanity in all of us, independent of our gender, caste, class and religion.

Sundar Sarukkai is a philosopher based in Bengaluru

# Live and let live-in

The order of the Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission on live-in relationships is problematic



SHRADDA CHAUDHARY

While referring to women in live-in relationships, a Bench of the State Human Rights Commission of Rajasthan said on September 5 that the "concubine" life of a woman cannot be termed a dignified life. In the absence of any specific reference in the order to the complaints that triggered these provocative comments, it is difficult to say what the honourable justices sought to achieve by making them. The kindest interpretation would be that they were overcome by benevolent patriarchy, the kind which prompts universities to have more conservative curfews for female students. However, this seemingly innocuous need to 'protect' women is a symptom of a more pernicious disease: the need to ensure that women don't challenge the patriarchal structures and institutions meant to keep them in their place.

#### The rights of parties who cohabit

In demanding a law that would provide avenues to formally recognise live-in relationships, the Bench touched upon an important legal issue. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, extends remedies in the legislation to 'relationships in the nature of marriage', and courts have repeatedly held that long, continuous cohabitation raises a presumption in favour of marriage. Notwithstanding this, there is a legal vacuum as regards the rights of parties who cohabit. The Supreme Court has passed several landmark judgments on intimate relationships. In *Shafin Jahan v. Asokan* (2018), it held that the right to choose one's life partner is an important facet of the right to life, and social approval of intimate personal decisions should not be the basis for recognising them. In *Navtej Johar v. Union of India* (2018), it read down Section 377 of the IPC which criminalised consensual homosexual relationships. In light of this, it is important to note that being in a live-in relationship is a valid choice which deserves the recognition and protection of law. That said, there may also be those who cohabit informally because they cannot formalise their relationships, such as inter-caste/religion opposite-sex couples who are barred from marrying by social norms, or same-sex couples, who are barred from marrying by law. Informal cohabitation, like marriage, creates vulnerabilities due to divisions of labour that leave

one party, usually the woman and her child, in greater need of financial support when the relationship ends. The law provides ways to address these vulnerabilities in marriages through the provision of rights to maintenance or inheritance, but the needs of informal cohabitants are left up to the discretion of judges, without any legal framework to guide them. However, it is not for these reasons that the SHRC has demanded the law. The real apprehension of the Bench is the alleged proliferation of live-in relationships, a social institution through which sexual freedom can be exercised outside marriage.

#### Problematic proclamations

The SHRC's order is problematic on many levels. One, Article 19 of the Constitution, which protects the right to freedom of speech and expression, includes the freedom to express one's identity, sexual preferences, and love. The right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 includes the right to privacy. The right to choose how to organise one's personal intimacies is an important facet of the right to privacy and, therefore, outside the purview of the state. Demanding that the government seek to prohibit live-in relationships is therefore brazen contempt of the decisions of the apex court.

Two, the language of the SHRC promotes sexist and heteronormative stereotypes, and ignores social reality. At one level, in stating that women in live-in relationships are 'kept' as concubines, it ignores the possibility that such relationships could be a viable alternative in cases where marriage is legally or socially prohibited. It also assumes that marriage is, or ought to be, the only relationship through which women sexually associate with men. At another level, by equating women who cohabit with concubines, it entrenches the patriarchal Madonna-whore dichotomy: women can either be good women who abide by the societal boundaries set for them or bad women who dare transgress these boundaries. The fact that this language was used by a body tasked with protecting and upholding human rights makes the proclamations doubly egregious.

Finally, the language in the order will likely create a chilling effect, preventing vulnerable citizens, in need of legal protection, from seeking redress.

The SHRC also demanded that governments run awareness campaigns against live-in relationships. It is worth considering whether that time and money might be better spent in campaigns to sensitise the functionaries of the justice system instead.

Shraddha Chaudhary is Senior Research Associate, Jindal Global Law School, Sonepat

## Glitches after the glitz

After the Modi-Trump bonhomie in Houston, cracks are appearing in the India-U.S. relationship

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The personal chemistry between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump is partly based on the convergence of political world views regarding immigration, "radical Islamic terror", and trade. It is also partly based on shared values of the global right, which encompasses the rejection of a liberal-progressive ethos which includes the notion that a free press is an essential element of a democracy.

Against that backdrop, there could have been little doubt that the 'Howdy, Modi' event in Houston, Texas, would be a resounding public relations victory for Mr. Modi. Not only did he get the commander-in-chief of the world's most powerful nation to play second fiddle in his formulaic diaspora-connect event, but Mr. Modi also managed their back-channel parleys so adroitly that potential sources of structural friction, including deep-festering concerns over tariffs, possibly divergent views on the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and entrenched positions on how to deal with Pakistan received a mention in official remarks.

But then public relations exercises are simply that – window dressing. The sponsors of such events hope the euphoria will stick for long enough that some people who aren't already drinking the Hindutva Kool-Aid buy into the paradigm and join the multitudes across the world keeping the saffron superstructure afloat.

#### Trade differences

However, the cracks are already showing. The much-vaunted big-bang announcement on trade that was heralded at prior to 'Howdy, Modi' did not materialise. Talks may still be in progress over the more troublesome parts of a potential U.S.-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), including tariffs on medical devices, electronic, telecommunications and dairy products; the expiration of India's preferential trade status under the Generalized System of Preferences; and perhaps Mr. Trump's bugbear – the export of Harley Davidson motorcycles to India. Yet the more troubling aspect of this bilateral conversation is the direction that it is taking –

implicitly pushing "mini trade deals" over the broader commitments made to the WTO. This is nothing new for Mr. Trump, who is also pushing a similar bilateral-based trade agreement with Japan. But has there been a broader discussion in India about the costs and benefits of undermining the multilateral system in favour of a limited trade agreement, even with a strategically important ally? The fact is that a U.S.-India FTA might well run contrary to the WTO requirement that its members only accede to trade deals that cover "substantially all trade" – thereby avoiding a situation where countries partner up and unfairly discriminate against a third country or trading bloc. In the past New Delhi has certainly leaned heavily on the dispute resolution mechanisms afforded to it under the WTO's arbitration facilities (ironically including against Washington on multiple occasions), so why could we not ask, a priori, if we are ready to throw that away before rushing into the Trumpian embrace?

#### Other cracks

Visible post-'Howdy, Modi' cracks are appearing in spheres other than trade as well. Mr. Trump characterising of Mr. Modi's remarks on Kashmir or Pakistan as "a very aggressive statement" belies the ostensible warmth that was on display at the NRG stadium between the two leaders. Similarly, Mr. Modi's government and governance in Jammu and Kashmir has spooked numerous U.S. Democrats, including Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Ilhan Omar and at least five members of the U.S. Congress who have explicitly voiced concern over the prevailing conditions in that region. And even though most of the mainstream media did not cover them, ordinary Americans and activists took to the streets in Houston to protest human rights abuses in India under the current dispensation and #AdiosModi did the rounds on social media.

While Mr. Modi may bask for a while in the event's afterglow, it will not be long before he is back to tussling with the economic and social challenges that await him at home.

narayan@thehindu.co.in

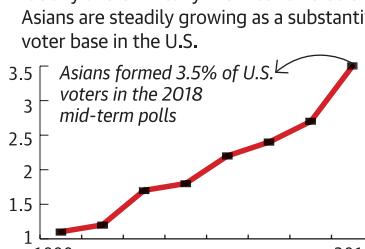


#### DATA POINT

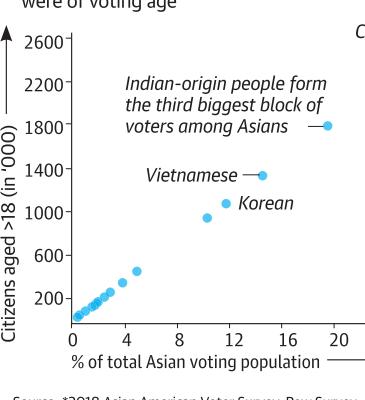
## Indian outreach

#### Growing clout

The U.S. mid-term election in 2018 was racially and ethnically the most diverse ever. Asians are steadily growing as a substantive voter base in the U.S.



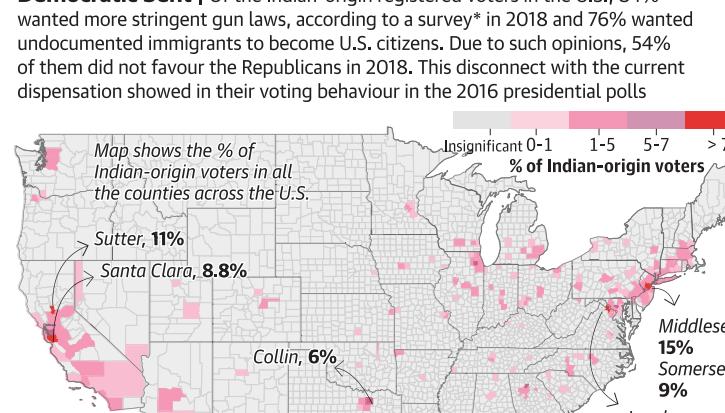
As of 2016, of the 41 lakh-odd Indian-origin people in the U.S., close to 18 lakh (44%) were of voting age



Source: \*2018 Asian American Voter Survey, Pew Survey

The share of Indian-origin voters in the U.S. has been steadily increasing over the years. A majority of them have always supported the Democratic Party in U.S. presidential elections. Last Sunday PM Narendra Modi appealed to 50,000 Indian-Americans who attended the 'Howdy, Modi' rally to vote for Trump in 2020. If Modi's appeal is successful, Trump's fortunes could change in some counties. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

**Democratic bent** | Of the Indian-origin registered voters in the U.S., 84% wanted more stringent gun laws, according to a survey\* in 2018 and 76% wanted undocumented immigrants to become U.S. citizens. Due to such opinions, 54% of them did not favour the Republicans in 2018. This disconnect with the current dispensation showed in their voting behaviour in the 2016 presidential polls



Hillary Clinton won in 11 of the 14 counties in which Indian-origin voters exceeded 5% of the population. The vote % of candidates in 2016 in those counties:

County	State	Clinton	Trump	County	State</

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Modi pitches for India's NSG entry

Mr. Modi said the administration in India today respected the business world and wealth creators - a message he had delivered on Independence Day, and one repeated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - reactions to perceptions that policies (around taxation and Corporate Social Responsibility for instance) had made investing in India difficult.

He mentioned intellec-

## U.P. law student held in extortion case

Naveen Arora, the SIT chief, said co-accused Sanjay 'confessed' that he sent the extortion messages to Mr. Chinmayanand on the directions of the law student. Ms. Bharti said the student identified the voices in a video clip showing the four planning the extortion against Mr. Chinmayanand and 'confessed' to the crime. The officer said the student also identified the

car. "She also identified her own voice in the video," Ms. Bharti told journalists in Shahjahanpur.

The student was arrested from her house in Shahjahanpur at 9.30 a.m., police said.

The student's father said he was forced "to receive" a memo for the arrest only at the police station and accused the police of not following procedure.

## Higher Education Bill in winter session

The earlier version of the HECI Bill, introduced in June 2018, had envisaged these responsibilities being handed over to an advisory board under the HRD Minister.

"We received more than 50,000 pieces of feedback when the draft Bill was made public last year. We have taken into account the sense of the people, and have removed the proposal for an advisory board to the Minister disbursing grants," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

The Ministry's five-year strategy plan, released in

## It's raining discounts for vehicle buyers

Tata Motors is offering benefits of ₹85,000 on Nexus, ₹1,50,000 on Hexa, ₹70,000 on Tiago, ₹15,000 on Tigor and ₹50,000 on the recently launched Harrier.

Maruti Suzuki has offered benefits starting from ₹65,000 on the Alto to ₹1.01 lakh on the Brezza. Analysts said there was no other option but to offer deep discounts to exhaust the inventory before the BSVI norms kick in with effect from April 1, 2020. They said the discounts were required to prop up sales. "Our offerings this year are bigger and

better than the previous year and by far the best in the industry," said S.N. Barman, vice-president, sales, marketing & customer support, passenger vehicles business unit, Tata Motors.

"We received a tremendous response during Onam and Ganesh Chaturthi. We are hopeful that this year's festive offers will provide a huge boost to the buyer morale," he added.

Two-wheeler firms have also stepped into the discounting race, with Vespa and Aprilia offering benefits worth around ₹10,000.

## Bihar policeman files complaint against Minister

Video of Ashwini Choubey 'chiding' him goes viral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA A policeman in Bihar's Buxar district has filed a complaint against Union Minister Ashwini Choubey for allegedly threatening him in full public view.

A video of the Minister, who is a BJP MP from Buxar, purportedly threatening the police officer has gone viral on social media. No FIR has been lodged against the Minister in this connection, said Buxar Deputy Superintendent of Police K.K. Singh.

The incident happened on Monday when the Union Minister of State for Health visited his constituency and held a *janata durbar*. A BJP worker, Laxman Dubey, complained to him that a local police officer, Rajiv Ranjan, who was also present there, had sent him a "goonda notice".

A visibly angry Minister called Mr. Ranjan and shouted at him, "Does this man look like a goonda to you? Have you seen a goonda? You better mend your ways or you will be stripped of your uniform."

Mr. Choubey defended himself saying he only wanted to tell the police officer that innocent people should not be branded as criminals. "There was some confusion... those being declared goondas and criminals are innocent farmers and BJP workers. I told the police officer that an FIR should be registered on time and innocent people should not be branded as goondas," he said.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha election campaign in Buxar, the Minister had publicly reprimanded a government official for stopping his cavalcade from entering the venue of a public meeting. Mr. Choubey is a second time MP from the constituency.

CMK

## We're prepared, says Rajnath on threat from Balakot camp revival

Defence Minister commissions Coast Guards' offshore patrol vessel *ICGS Varaha*

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

In the wake of the reactivation of the terror camp in Pakistan's Balakot and a recent communication from Punjab Chief Minister to Union Home Minister Amit Shah about drones being used by Pakistan to deliver weapons into India, the Indian security forces were fully prepared, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told reporters in Chennai on Wednesday.

Mr. Singh commissioned *ICGS Varaha*, offshore patrol vessel of the Coast Guard. Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, Fisheries Minister D. Jayamurari, Director General of the Coast Guard Krishnaswamy Natarajan were present.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Singh called upon all those involved in coastal security to proactively interact and engage towards achieving



**Moment of pride:** The ICGS Varaha was commissioned in Chennai on Wednesday. ■ BIJOY GHOSH

ing the common goal of national security.

"The Indian Coast Guard has entered into a memorandum of understanding with seven maritime nations for capacity-building, training,

collective and cooperative response to deal with maritime threats," he said.

Mr. Singh lauded the Coast Guard's service to the nation, saying: "The efforts during Kerala floods in 2018

and the recent floods in Maharashtra, Karnataka and simultaneously tackling maritime contingencies is a testimony to the diversity of roles being played by Coast Guard on land and over sea."

## J&amp;K youth being sent to jails outside State'

Hundreds wait outside police station in Shopian to get information on detained relatives

VIJAYA SINGH  
SHOPIAN



**In limbo:** People lining up outside the Shopian police HQ to know the whereabouts of their loved ones. ■ VIJAYA SINGH

special status and bifurcated into two Union Territories.

## 800 in detention

Director-General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh said in an interview to *The Hindu* that from August 5, nearly 3,000 cases were reported of young men being picked up and released subsequently in the Kashmir Valley. Nearly 800 remain in detention and some 150 are lodged in jails outside J&K.

Shopian is one of the worst militancy-affected districts in South Kashmir. There are around 225 villages

in the district spread over 60,000 hectares, of which half is covered by apple orchards. It is the largest producer of apples in J&K.

According to the police, last year, 42 men from Shopian joined various terrorist groups, while this year, only 17 took to militancy. A police officer said that after August 5, only one man joined the terror group.

In the past one year, as many as 20,000 people have signed community bonds to secure the release of 800

young men and boys who were involved in incidents of stone-throwing.

The J&K police have started a unique practice of engaging the community elders, religious teachers and family members to deter the youth from repeating offences such as throwing stones at security forces. In the bond, the community members are made to stand as guarantors for the youth at the local police station for first-time offenders. The bond has no legal sanctity though.

Rise in *habeas corpus* cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

The J&K High Court is witnessing a growing number *habeas corpus* cases. However, the "unprecedented situation" in the Valley is holding back the Court from issuing any orders for relief in cases of detentions.

The HC data showed that only 15 and 26 *habeas corpus* cases were filed before the court in June and July. The number shot up to 120 in August and about 115 in the first three weeks of September. Interestingly, no Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the past two months.

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## IN BRIEF



**Tribunal declares JKLF an unlawful association**

NEW DELHI An Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act Tribunal has declared the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front an "unlawful association." The outfit, headed by separatist Yasin Malik, was banned by the Home Ministry on March 22. The Tribunal concludes there was "sufficient cause" to declare 'JKLF-Y' as an unlawful association.

## Won't engage Labour Party on Kashmir: India

NEW DELHI Responding to the comments on the Kashmir situation at the Labour Party Conference of the U.K. on September 25, India said that it will not engage the party on explaining the Kashmir situation. "There is no question of engaging with the Labour Party or its representatives on this issue," said the MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

## Can't contest ASI report now, Muslim parties told

Should have objected in High Court: SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Muslim parties in the Ayodhya dispute argued on Wednesday that the Archaeological Study of India (ASI) report on the excavations at the Babri Masjid site in 2003 is filled with "palpable and inherent" infirmities and inconsistencies.

But the Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said it was too late in the day to object to the ASI report. The Bench wondered why the Muslims had chosen to question the report now in the Supreme Court and not earlier in the Allahabad High Court which had commissioned the excavations.

It said the Muslims cannot object in the Supreme Court to what they did not object before the Allahabad High Court.

The High Court had ordered the ASI excavation of the disputed area in a judicial direction. The archaeo-

ologists reported traces of a large structure which pre-existed the Babri Masjid. The Hindus claim that the findings give credence to their claim that there was a Ram Mandir in that place.

Senior advocate Meenakshi Arora said the ASI report was "weak evidence" and can be only considered an opinion at best. The lawyer argued that the summary of the ASI report was neither signed nor attributed to any of the archaeologists who were members of the project.

The judges on the Bench, one after the other, expressed scepticism about her argument.

"You are asking us to sit in judgment of something that happened in the trial stage? You should have confronted the Commissioner [ASI] and put all these questions.... You cannot come in appeal and say the report is infirm," said Chief Justice Gogoi.

## Police to brainstorm on rogue drones

Arms seized in Punjab suspected to have been air-dropped from Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Arms and satellite phones recovered by the Punjab police on Sunday. ■ PTI

Forces (CAPF) were updated on the technology.

Last week, the Punjab police seized a huge cache of arms, including five AK-47 rifles, pistols, hand grenades and satellite phones suspected to have been delivered from across the border from Pakistan over drones.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said the incident was a new and serious dimension to Pakistan's sinister designs in the aftermath of the revocation of the special status of J&K under Article 370.

The seminar would be attended by representatives of

private firms also.

Wing Commander Prakash will give a presentation on "threat perspective from rogue drones".

## Panel constituted

Last month, Home Minister Amit Shah had constituted a committee under the BPRD to study and analyse the threat from drones.

The "Policy Framework for Anti-Drone Technology" would be addressed by officials from the DGCA, the Bureau of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India.

## 'Love jihad' on the rise, says NCM vice-chief

In a letter to Amit Shah, he says it's a growing threat to the Christian community

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

George Kurian, Vice-Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), has raised the issue of alleged "love jihad" and its supposed connection to terrorist activities, saying it is a growing threat specifically to the Christian community.

In a letter to Home Minister Amit Shah early this week, he demanded an investigation by the National Investigation Agency and an effective law to "curb such fraudulent activities of radical elements".

He specifically mentioned a case of alleged rape, blackmail and coercive conversion attempts in Kozhikode, Kerala, and the complaint filed with the Commission

for terror activities by trapping them through 'love jihad' has shown the Christian community is a soft target for Islamic radicals."

by a couple in Delhi that their daughter was abducted to a West Asian country, stating their fear that she might be ill-treated and forced into terrorist activities or treated as a "slave".

There are reports that the External Affairs Ministry is in touch with the parents and may investigate the matter

further since it involves another country.

Mr. Kurian quoted some reports by the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council's Commission for Social Harmony and Vigilance, which put the number of women victims of "love jihad" between 2005 and 2012 at 4,000. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kurian said the issue was "already a social and political issue in Kerala and had been since 2006".

"It's been a continuous process. The conversion is not happening into Islam, but to terrorism. Even the Muslim community in the State [Kerala] is opposed to it. It needs to be taken seriously. Hence my letter to the Home Minister," he said.

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**Catch the sun**

The Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters in New York is an Indian effort to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action. At a contribution of about \$1 million, India has gifted the solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the building, one panel each for 193 member states



▪ System size of each panel:  
**71.41 KW**  
▪ Projected annual system output: 86,244 kWh (equals to carbon dioxide emissions from 30,246 kg of coal burned or carbon sequestered from 1,008 tree seedlings grown for 10 years)

**Gandhiji's principles act as a moral compass, says Modi**

PM inaugurates Solar Park, Peace Garden at UN

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

UNITED NATIONS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with UN chief Antonio Guterres and other world leaders, inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park and Gandhi Peace Garden at the headquarters of the global body, underlining that his principles act as a moral compass as the world grapples with challenges of climate change, terrorism and corruption.

Mr. Modi was joined by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in remotely inaugurating the 50-kW Gandhi Solar Park and the Gandhi Peace Garden at the UN Headquarters on Tuesday.

The special commemorative event "Leadership matters: relevance of Gandhi in the contemporary world"

was hosted by Mr. Modi to mark Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary. A special UN Postage stamp on Gandhiji's 150 birth anniversary was released.

The Gandhi Solar Park is a first of its kind symbolic Indian effort at the U.N. that highlights India's willingness to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action.

At a contribution of about \$1 million, India has gifted solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the U.N. Headquarters here, one panel each for every 193 U.N. member states.

The 'Gandhi Peace Garden' is an innovative initiative under which the Consulate-General of India in New York, Long Island-based NGO Shanti Fund and the State University of New York-Old Westbury have entered into an agreement to plant 150 trees.

It is a crowd-sourced project, with people adopting trees in the memory of their

loved ones. The garden is in an open site within the 600-acre campus of the university.

The solar panels are powered up to reach the maximum 50 kW of generation power.

Energy generated in the park is equivalent to energy that would have been created through the use of 30,000 kg of coal. It also has a carbon sequestration of 1,000 seedlings which will grow into trees over 10 years.

Mr. Modi said the values promoted by Gandhiji served as a moral compass for enlightened leadership.

Addressing the event, Mr. Guterres said, "Gandhiji's vision and philosophy are pillars of the work of the United Nations. Part of his genius lay in his ability to see the inter-connectedness and the unity between all things. His political achievements included leading the movement that ended colonial rule in India."

Mr. Modi said the success of Swachh Bharat was above and beyond any statistics.

"The campaign has not only improved the lives of crores of Indians, but it has also played a significant role in achieving the goals set by

the UN," Mr. Modi said.

He dedicated the award to those Indians who transformed the campaign into a "people's movement" and

addressed the event, Mr. Guterres said, "Gandhiji's vision and philosophy are pillars of the work of the United Nations. Part of his genius lay in his ability to see the inter-connectedness and the unity between all things. His political achievements included leading the movement that ended colonial rule in India."

At least two differences between the accounts – one on Afghanistan and the other on terror and Kashmir – were substantive.

The Indian account of the meeting, conveyed by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, said that Afghanistan had not been discussed due to a lack of time.

The U.S. administration,

however, said the two countries discussed Afghanistan.

"...Both leaders expressed concerns about the situation in Afghanistan and shared ideas about how to work together to promote security and prosperity in the country," a readout of the meeting from the White House said.

At the post-bilateral External Affairs Ministry briefing, Mr. Gokhale said the session was split equally between a discussion on terrorism and trade, saying there was a long discussion on terrorism.

**Complainant names Pawar in bank scam case****SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Surinder Mohan Arora, on whose public interest litigation petition the Bombay High Court last month directed the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police to investigate the alleged

₹25,000 crore scam in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, has named Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar.

"Based on the police case, the Enforcement Directorate has initiated the money-laundering investigation and

added Mr. Pawar's name, after the EOW recorded the witness statement of Mr. Arora," said an agency official.

On August 26, Mr. Arora recorded his latest statement.

He alleged that loans were disbursed at the behest of

Mr. Pawar "who exercise[d] absolute control over the affairs of the MSC [Maharashtra State Cooperative] and DCC [District Co-operative Central] Banks in Maharashtra and without whose prior approval no loans were sanctioned."

**Govt. diverting attention from slump: CPI****SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India on Wednesday accused the government of trying to divert people's attention from the unfolding economic downturn. A statement issued at the end of the September 23-24 National Executive meeting, warned of a recession and called for the protection of the democratic rights of the people of Kashmir and of those affected by the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

"The manufacturing sector has shown a mere 0.6% growth and if the negative growth in the unorganised sector is taken into account, the GDP growth would be hardly 1% as per experts," the party said.

**Corporate sector**  
The CPI said the downturn could be reversed by boosting the rural economy and by enhancing the purchasing power of the masses. It criticised the government for granting financial benefits to the corporate sector.

"The ill-timed introduction of GST [Goods and Services Tax] and its faulty implementation after the mammoth shock of demonetisation have added fuel to fire, thereby bringing the economy on a downward spiral," the meeting said.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said, "People are being held at gunpoint in Kashmir while the government makes misleading promises about democracy and development in the region."

**सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबरेटरी/ Semi- Conductor Laboratory**  
अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार/ Department of Space, Government of India, सेक्टर-72, सांस्कृतिक (पांजाब) भारत सेक्टर-72, S.A.S. Nagar-160 071, Near Chandigarh (Punjab) India फोन/ Phone : +91-172-2296166/6169/6173 कॉर्स : /Fax +91-172-237410 ईमेल/ Email: <http://scl.gov.in> वेबसाइट: [www.scl.gov.in](http://www.scl.gov.in)

निविदा सुनना संस्था, एसएसएल/पीटी/ 157 / TENDER NOTICE No. SCL/PT/157 दिनांक/ Date: 20.09.2019

निविदा, एसएसएल के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबरेटरी के प्रमुख कार्यालय भारत, निविदा के लिए और लाइन निविदा अमंत्रित करते हैं।

For and on behalf of The Director, Head-Purchase & Stores, Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) invites Online Tender for the following:

क्र.सं. Sr.No.	निविदा संख्या Tender Number	विवरण Description
1	एसएसएल/पीटी/ 2019/01/050901 SCL/PSA/2019/01/050901 (एक चार निविदा/ Single Part Tender)	तापमान बल प्रणाली Temperature Forcing System (विस्तृत जानकारी निविदा दस्तावेज अनुसार / Details as per Tender Document)

नोट/ Note: निविदा दस्तावेज को ई-निविदा पोर्टल [https://eprocure.isro.gov.in](http://eprocure.isro.gov.in) एसएसएल की वेबसाइट ([www.scl.gov.in](http://www.scl.gov.in)) से देख / डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। Tender Documents can be accessed/ downloaded from e-tender portal [https://eprocure.isro.gov.in](http://eprocure.isro.gov.in) SCL website ([www.scl.gov.in](http://www.scl.gov.in)) / ISRO website ([www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in)) / CPP Portal (<http://cpp.gov.in>).

प्रमुख, क्राय एवं भूर्भुल / Head, Purchase & Stores

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

# 49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001

Phone No. 080-40931272 Website: [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in) email: [cdce1@kiadb.in](mailto:cdce1@kiadb.in) or [jotp@kiadb.in](mailto:jotp@kiadb.in)

**SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)**

(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

KIADB is inviting tenders under two cover systems for providing consultancy services for preparing EIA, SIS studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for the following KIADB Industrial Areas. The firms who are listed as Accredited Consultants in the accredited list of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi, are eligible to participate in the tender.

Sl. No.	Proposed name of the new industrial area	Approx. Extent	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EP-07/9066/2019-20 Dt:25.09.2019	594.92 Acres (240.75 Ha)	2.00
2.	Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EP-08/9067/2019-20 Dt:25.09.2019	590.35 Acres (239.00 Ha)	2.00
3.	Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EP-09/9068/2019-20 Dt:25.09.2019	352.31 Acres (142.63 Ha)	2.00

Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Scheduled dates of are as follows:

- Last date to receive pre-bid Queries: 05.10.2019 Up to 5.00 p.m.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on: 11.10.2019 at 11.30 a.m.
- Deadline for submission of Technical and financial bids is 22.10.2019 up to 4.00 p.m.
- Time and date of opening Technical bids is on 24.10.2019 after 11.30 a.m.

Sd/- Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer-1

**Swachh Bharat helped meet UN goals: PM**

Modi receives the Global Goalkeeper award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the mission



Top honour: Narendra Modi receiving the award of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation from Bill Gates. ■ PTI

accorded topmost priority to cleanliness in their lives.

"No such campaign was seen or heard about in any other country in the recent past. It might have been launched by our government, but people took control of it," Mr. Modi said.

**11 crore toilets**

As a result, over 11 crore toilets were built in the country in the past five years, which was a record, he said.

The Prime Minister said if the mission had benefited anyone the most, it was the poor and women. "Only that person who does not have a toilet understands its value, especially women," he said, adding that not having a toilet was among their most tough problems.

He said many young girls had to give up education due to lack of toilets in their schools. "Our daughters wanted to study but due to lack of toilets they were forced to leave their schools and sit at home."

Mr. Modi said it was the responsibility of his government to help the girls and women come out of this situation and it had performed the duty with utmost sincerity.

He expressed satisfaction that the mission was helping save millions of lives. He met Bill Gates and Melinda Gates after the programme.

"PM @narendramodi had a fruitful interaction with @BillGates and @melindagates," the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

**India offers aid to Pacific island nations****PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a \$150-million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations for solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects.

"Additionally, the President encouraged Prime Minister Modi to improve relations with Pakistan and fulfil his promise to better the lives of the Kashmiri people," the reference to Kashmir from the White House's readout said.

"Readouts are hardly ever identical," an External Affairs Ministry official told *The Hindu*.

The meeting was held on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

rism" in which Mr. Modi had explained "in some detail" the challenges India had faced from terrorism, especially in Jammu & Kashmir, over the past 30 years.

However, there was no mention of terrorism in the White House's readout.

Mr. Modi, who attended the India-Pacific Islands Developing States Leaders' Meeting, announced \$12 million for the member-states to implement high-impact development projects in an area of their choice.

The meeting was held on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY**

e-Tender Notice Tender No: 18.19/2019-20/SE/PFC/PKD

KIWB- Shornur Municipality - Supplying and Laying Distribution System from OHRS s in Zone - I & Zone - II & Zone - III EMD: Rs. 100000 - 200000 Tender fee: Rs - 8400 - 11200 Last Date for submitting Tender : 22-10-2019 03:00:pm

Phone: 0491254927 website: [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in) Superintending Engineer www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-299-2019-20 PH Circle Palakkad

**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED**

# 'Trump urged Ukraine's leader to probe Biden'

Transcript reveals details of the controversial July phone conversation

MAGGIE HABERMAN  
MICHAEL D. SHEAR  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump urged the President of Ukraine to contact Attorney General William Barr about opening a potential corruption investigation connected to former Vice-President Joe Biden, according to the reconstruction of a July phone call at the centre of accusations that Mr. Trump pressured a foreign leader to find dirt on a political rival.

"I would like you to do us a favour," Mr. Trump said in response to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy of Ukraine raising the prospect of acquiring military equipment from the United States. Noting that the United States had "done a lot for Ukraine," Mr. Trump also asked for another inquiry: that the Ukrainians examine an unsubstantiated theory about stolen Democratic emails.

After a whistleblower raised concerns about Mr. Trump's dealings with Ukraine, the Director of National Intelligence and the Inspector General for the intelligence community each referred the complaint for a possible criminal investigation into the President's actions, according to a Justice Department official.

**No violation of law**  
The department's criminal division determined that the reconstructed transcript of the call did not show that Mr. Trump had violated campaign finance laws by soliciting from a foreign national a contribution, donation or thing of value.

## To impeach a President



### THE TRIGGER

- A whistleblower alleged that in July, Trump pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate Joe Biden's son

Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced earlier this week that the House of Representatives, where her Democratic Party holds a clear majority, will initiate an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, setting in motion a rigorous, multistage process. However, given the lacklustre response her proposal has received from the Republicans, the GOP-controlled Senate is unlikely to move against the President

### HOW DID THEY END UP HERE?

Hunter. Days prior to the call, Trump reportedly withheld \$400 million military aid to Kiev, giving rise to speculation that he was expecting a quid pro quo

### HUNTER'S UKRAINE CONNECTION

- In 2014, following the fall of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych, President Barack Obama made Vice-President Biden his point person for the country. In the same year, Hunter took up a position at Ukraine's largest private gas company, Burisma, for which he was reportedly paid \$50,000 a month. There was, however, no evidence of any wrongdoing

### SUPPORT FOR IMPEACHMENT

- More than 150 of the 235 Democratic members in the 435-seat House have shown support for impeachment or the opening of an inquiry. No House Republican has come out in favour of impeachment

- There are at least six House committees investigating the President, probes that will now be subsumed under the impeachment proceedings likely to be conducted by the House judiciary committee

### Chances of success

In past impeachments, support and opposition ran along party lines, which looks likely in Trump's case as well; Democrats lack a majority in the Senate and, even assuming that all 47 Democratic Senators vote in favour of convicting the President, they need the support of at least 20 Republicans

### THE PROCESS

- Any member can introduce an impeachment resolution if he/she believes that the President has committed "treason, bribery, or other crimes and misdemeanors"

- The motion is sent to the judiciary committee, or any other committee, which reviews evidence or carries out investigation

- If the evidence is strong, the committee crafts articles of impeachment and sends them to the full House

- The House needs to pass the articles by a simple majority vote; the President will then be deemed as "impeached" by the House

- The articles then go to the Senate, if the President is convicted, the Vice-President takes over the White House

### THE PRECEDENTS

- No U.S. President has been ousted from office by impeachment. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 to avoid certain removal

- Two Presidents beat the process: the House formally impeached Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998, but in both cases they were acquitted in the Senate

where a trial presided by the Chief Justice takes place, with representatives from the House acting as prosecutors and the President and his attorneys presenting his defence

A two-thirds majority is necessary to convict and remove the President

If the President is convicted, the Vice-President takes over the White House

to Ukraine." Mr. Trump and Mr. Giuliani have long pushed for Ukrainian officials to examine whether there was any improper overlap between Mr. Biden's dealings with Ukraine while in office and his son's position on the board of a Ukrainian energy company.

### No reference to aid

There was no explicit reference to the \$391 million in foreign aid that Mr. Trump had told Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House Chief of Staff, to put a hold on several days before the call took place.

Mr. Giuliani said that regardless of the fact that Mr. Biden is Mr. Trump's political opponent, allegations against Mr. Biden required investigation, and only Mr. Trump had the status to ask the Ukrainian president to open an inquiry.

The details of the call – which were first revealed by a whistleblower who works in the intelligence community – prompted Democrats on Tuesday to formally open an impeachment inquiry, accusing Mr. Trump of betraying his country by pressuring a foreign leader to dig up dirt on Mr. Biden, now also a Democratic presidential hopeful. In the days before the memorandum of conversation was released, news reports revealed that Mr. Trump used the call in July to pressure Mr. Zelenskiy for an investigation about Mr. Biden's actions on behalf of his son Hunter Biden's work with a business in Ukraine.

Over the weekend, Mr. Trump publicly acknowledged that he discussed the former Vice President with Mr. Zelenskiy, even as he angrily railed against what he called another "witch-hunt" and insisted that his conversation with the Ukrainian President was perfectly appropriate. *NY TIMES*

Johnson calls SC verdict 'wrong', challenges Oppn.

Dares Labour to call a confidence vote

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday challenged Opposition MPs to call a confidence vote in his government, after the Supreme Court struck down his decision to suspend Parliament in the run-up to Brexit.

The ruling by Britain's highest court on Tuesday that the suspension was unlawful was a stunning blow to Mr. Johnson's authority just weeks before the country is due to leave the European Union on October 31.

But the Conservative leader showed no contrition as he faced MPs in the House of Commons, which had hastily reconvened on Wednesday.

He condemned the verdict as "wrong" and, faced with calls to resign, challenged the main Opposition Labour Party and others to call an immediate confidence vote. "They have until the house rises today to table a motion of no confidence in the government, and we can have that vote tomorrow," he said. "Will they have the courage to act or will they refuse to take responsibility and do nothing but dither and delay? I think the people of this country have had enough of it," he said. "This Parliament must either stand aside and let this government get Brexit done or bring a vote of confidence and finally face the day of reckoning with the voters."

Mr. Johnson said Parliament was "gridlocked, paralysed and refusing to deliver on the priorities of the people".

The Supreme Court ruling is a hammer blow to Mr. Johnson's authority, and comes after a series of defeats in Parliament.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson in London on Wednesday. ■ REUTERS

dressing a rowdy and packed Commons chamber, Mr. Corbyn said: "If he wants an election, get an extension and let's have an election. "No one can trust the good of this country, he should go."

Mr. Johnson, who flew back early from the UN General Assembly in New York to address the newly resumed Parliament, accused MPs of trying to undermine the 2016 Brexit vote. "We decided to call that referendum, we promised time and again to respect it. I think the people of this country have had enough of it," he said. "This Parliament must either stand aside and let this government get Brexit done or bring a vote of confidence and finally face the day of reckoning with the voters."

Mr. Johnson said Parliament was "gridlocked, paralysed and refusing to deliver on the priorities of the people".

The Supreme Court ruling is a hammer blow to Mr. Johnson's authority, and comes after a series of defeats in Parliament.

### ELSEWHERE



#### Putin urges dialogue as he meets Maduro

MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin reiterated Russian support for Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro in a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday and called for all sides to take part in talks to end the country's crisis. AFP

#### Toll in PoK earthquake rises to 38

JATLAN

Rescuers battled along badly damaged roads and combed through toppled buildings on Wednesday to reach victims of an earthquake that killed at least 38 people and injured hundreds more in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The village of Jatlan appeared to be one of the worst affected. AFP

## + Thunberg, three others, win 'Alternative Nobel'

Inspired calls for urgent climate action

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
COPENHAGEN

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, was among four people named on Wednesday as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award, also known as the 'Alternative Nobel'. Ms. Thunberg is being recognised "for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts," the prize foundation said. It added that Ms. Thunberg "personifies the notion that everyone has the power to create change".

The foundation also gave its 2019 award to Davi Kopenawa and the Hutukara Yanomami Association, representing Brazil's indigenous



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. ■ AP

tribe, for protecting the Amazon forest and its people; Moroccan activist Aminatou Haidar "for her steadfast nonviolent action" for Western Sahara and Chinese lawyer Guo Jianmei for her work for women's rights in China.

## Israel PM gets chance to retain power

President nominates Netanyahu to stitch together coalition

REUTERS  
JERUSALEM



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. ■ REUTERS

Israel's President tasked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday with assembling a new government after power-sharing talks with his rival, Benny Gantz, failed following an inconclusive election.

Mr. Netanyahu, head of the right-wing Likud party, and Israel's longest-serving leader, still has no clear path to a fifth term after emerging from the September 17 ballot, the second this year, short of a parliamentary majority. "I have decided to give you, sir, the opportunity to assemble a government," President Reuven Rivlin said to Mr. Netanyahu at a nomination ceremony. He will have 28 days to form

a coalition and can ask Mr. Rivlin for a two-week extension, if necessary. Mr. Netanyahu's failure to clinch victory in a ballot in April led to last week's election and left him politically weakened.

In the new countdown, Likud has the pledged support of 55 legislators in the 120-member Parliament, against

54 for Mr. Gantz's centrist Blue and White Party. The two parties failed to reach a coalition deal on Tuesday. Former Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman has been keeping his far-right Yisrael Beiteinu party on the fence since the September 17 ballot.

"It became clear that neither Netanyahu nor Gantz had the 61 seats necessary to form a government," Mr. Rivlin said at the ceremony. "Netanyahu's ability to assemble an administration is higher at the moment," the president said, noting that 10 Arab legislators in Mr. Gantz's support bloc of 54, who recommended the ex-general, did not commit to joining a government.

"I would like to announce that our response to any negotiation under sanctions is negative," Mr. Rouhani said in an address to the UN General Assembly.

## Rouhani rules out talks with U.S. under sanctions

Doubts sincerity of administration

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
UNITED NATIONS

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday ruled out negotiations with the U.S. so long as sanctions are in place and said he was not interested in a "memorandum of photo" with President Donald Trump.

"How can someone believe them when the silent killing of a great nation, and pressure on the lives of 83 million Iranians, especially women and children, are welcomed by American government officials?"

As European leaders sought to arrange a tension-reducing encounter between the Iranian and U.S. Presidents, Mr. Rouhani dismissed what he saw a photo-op for the media-hungry

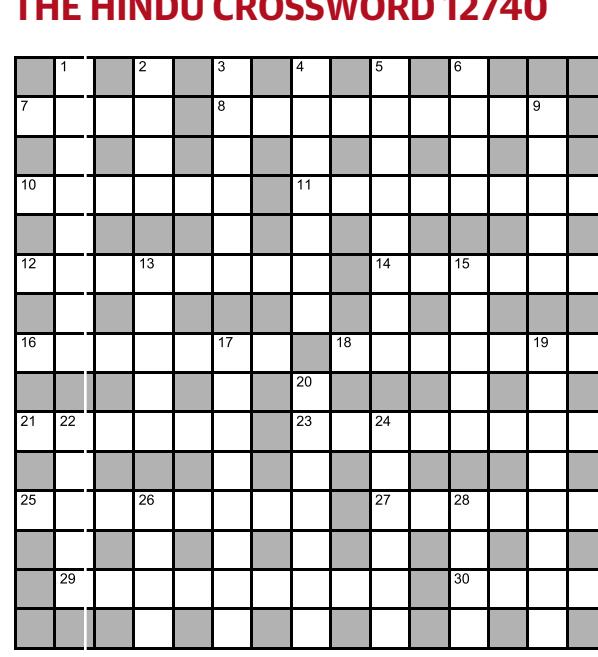
Mr. Trump. "Memento photos are the final stage of negotiations, not the first one," he said. He doubted the sincerity of the U.S. to negotiate, pointing to Trump administration officials' boasts of damage inflicted by sanctions on Iran.

#### Iran will never forgive

"How can someone believe them when the silent killing of a great nation, and pressure on the lives of 83 million Iranians, especially women and children, are welcomed by American government officials?"

"The Iranian nation will never, ever forgive and forgive these crimes and these criminals," he said.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12740



### ACROSS

- At first, financial legislation reveals defect (4)
- Cop's at home with corpse mangled around topmost part of thigh (9)
- Drink is returned before the German's assassination (6)
- Hetheaded Bond-maids are carted away in suit (8)
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- To start with, purple writing fluid shows healthy colour (4)
- Enlighten sick university man in Europe (8)
- Outstanding ring! Marry! (4)
- Sire is confused over artist's range in Spanish (6)

- Secondhand automobile surprisingly raced us (4-3)
- Encountered a lawyer followed by volunteers providing information about information (8)
- Fragrant oil found in cottonseed (4)
- NORAD's formulated a radioactive gas (5)
- Indian treated (holding a bit of) and brought upon oneself (8)
- Pawnbroker Samuel's country relative? (5,3)
- Reveal peacekeeper's initially mysterious question (6)
- Witnesses noted pens are displaced (9)
- Stomach ward's mail's misplaced at first (7)
- Bristled Dewan's dancing (5)
- Flex muscle endlessly over Yankee ... that's inelegant (6)
- Friend returned with penny for a European (4)
- Be listless about light motorcycle having no dynamo at first (4)

### (set by Incognito)

- 5 I lay a ham pudding in range (8)
- 14 Add small program goal (6)
- 16 Crush green olive and extract oil ... to settle a score (7)
- 18 Initially procure flower part for animal (7)
- 21 Organised a trek around Akishima, primarily to display martial art (6)
- 23 Indian treated (holding a bit of) and brought upon oneself (8)
- 25 Pawnbroker Samuel's country relative? (5,3)
- 27 Reveal peacekeeper's initially mysterious question (6)
- 29 Witnesses noted pens are displaced (9)
- 30 To start with, purple writing fluid shows healthy colour (4)
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- 2 Outstanding ring! Marry! (4)
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- 41 Witnesses noted pens are displaced (9)
- 42 To start with, purple writing fluid shows healthy colour (4)
- 43 Enlighten sick university man in Europe (8)
- 44 Outstanding ring! Marry! (4)
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## MARKET WATCH

	25-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,594	-1.29
US Dollar	71.04	-0.04
Gold	39,182	0.41
Brent oil	61.73	-3.15

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	414.80	0.95
Asian Paints	1751.80	-14.10
Axis Bank	694.95	-9.45
Bajaj Auto.	2941.00	-17.15
Bajaj Finance	8255.60	-14.90
Bharti Airtel	341.65	-7.00
BPCL	465.20	3.90
Britannia Ind	3036.00	-44.20
Cipla	434.60	-15.65
Coal India	192.60	-5.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2773.35	-11.90
Eicher Motors	17600.10	-834.15
GAIL (India)	136.45	-2.80
Grasim Ind	724.15	-25.55
HCL Tech.	1053.85	6.45
HDFC	2069.95	-60.05
HDFC Bank	1239.70	-14.10
Hero MotoCorp	2704.25	-51.70
Hindalco	189.90	-7.90
Hind Unilever	2051.50	1.05
Indiabulls HFL	423.90	-11.10
ICICI Bank	434.20	-6.70
IndusInd Bank	1503.90	-12.40
Bharti Infratech	257.35	-0.30
Infosys	792.65	-1.40
Indian Oil Corp	140.70	2.00
ITC	247.55	-8.45
JSW Steel	234.40	1.05
Kotak Bank	1601.60	-16.50
L&T	1450.10	-31.20
M&M	534.70	-24.05
Maruti Suzuki	6638.50	-370.60
NTPC	116.90	1.75
ONGC	131.45	-2.05
PowerGrid Corp	198.75	8.30
Reliance Ind	1279.55	0.85
State Bank	280.25	-22.35
Sun Pharma	406.75	-2.90
Tata Motors	123.05	-7.85
Tata Steel	362.05	-8.75
TCS	2088.45	43.75
Tech Mahindra	705.90	2.05
Titan	1268.90	-23.75
UltraTech Cement	4277.85	-40.15
UPL	576.75	-2.65
Vedanta	156.20	-3.75
Wipro	238.80	-1.90
YES Bank	53.70	-2.35
Zee Entertainment	273.45	-5.55

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.83	71.15
Euro	77.82	78.18
British Pound	87.82	88.22
Japanese Yen (100)	65.94	66.27
Chinese Yuan	9.94	9.99
Swiss Franc	71.79	72.12
Singapore Dollar	51.41	51.64
Canadian Dollar	53.36	53.62
Malaysian Ringgit	16.89	17.00

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

September 25 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	52	(52)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3642	(3614)

## Stocks lose ground amid global sell-off

Auto, banking, realty shares worst hit; Hang Seng, Kospi also lose, inquiry against Trump causes jitters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Indian equity benchmarks lost more than a per cent each on Wednesday amid a global sell-off, as investors turned jittery over renewed geopolitical tensions and domestic slowdown concerns. While investors sold shares across sectors, the worst hit were automobile, banking and realty stocks.

The 30-share Sensex lost 503.62 points, or 1.29%, to close at 38,593.52 as index heavyweights like HDFC, Tata Motors, State Bank of India, Maruti Suzuki India, Yes Bank, ITC, L&T and M&M, all lost more than 2% each.

The broader Nifty closed at 11,440.20, shedding 148 points, or 1.28%. The sectoral indices representing realty and public sector banks,

## Cascading effect

Domestic investors turned cautious after the Asian Development Bank lowered its growth forecast for India from the earlier projected 7% to 6.5% for FY20

however, lost 3.06% and 5.63%, respectively. The fall in the banking index was primarily due to SBI, which lost more than 7% after Morgan Stanley downgraded the stock on concerns related to asset quality.

The global sell-off was primarily due to launch of a formal impeachment inquiry of

Uncertainty in U.S. during a slowdown can put further brakes on growth

Gaurav Dua,  
Head - Capital Market Strategy & Investments, Sharekhan

U.S. President Donald Trump. While speaking at the United Nations, the U.S. President fired a fresh salvo at China, saying that the time of trade "abuses" by Beijing was over.

"The approval of impeachment investigations against U.S. President has unnerved the markets," said Gaurav Dua, head - Capital Market Strategy & Investments, Sharekhan.

"The political uncertainty in USA at the time of slowdown in the economy could certainly put further brakes

on the global economic growth in the near term," he added. On the domestic front, investors turned cautious after Asian Development Bank lowered its growth forecast for India from the earlier projected 7% to 6.5% for 2019-20.

## Investor sentiment

The weak market breadth reflected the subdued investor sentiment on Wednesday as more than 1,800 stocks lost ground on the BSE as against only 718 gainers. Further, as many as 238 stocks were

locked to their lower circuit on BSE. Foreign portfolio investors again ended the day as net sellers at nearly ₹350 crore with domestic institutions also pressing the sell button with net sales of ₹762 crore.

## SBI tanks, brokerage raises asset quality issue

'Stressed borrowers, a concern'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

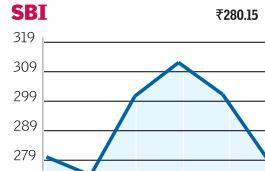
Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) fell over 7% on Wednesday even as a brokerage pointed out that concerns around its asset quality remained elevated.

Morgan Stanley estimated SBI's credit costs at 180 bps (basis points) for FY20 and 125 bps for FY21 compared with 270 bps in FY19.

"This would represent a sharp improvement, but our confidence in these estimates is not very strong," Morgan Stanley said in a report.

## Credit crunch

"There is a credit crunch among weaker-rated borrowers as flow of credit from



challenged lenders has stalled," it added, pointing out it does not see signs of this reversing yet, implying risk of continued defaults. SBI shares ended 7.37% lower at ₹280.15 on the BSE.

"Given SBI's size, it is one of the largest lenders to many of these stressed borrowers. The other risk would be if SBI were asked to help any of the challenged lenders should they face distress," the report added.

## Remove DDT to boost investment'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The task force on direct tax (DTC) has recommended abolishing the dividend distribution tax (DDT) with a view to promoting investment.

The DDT is a surrogate tax and hinders foreign direct investment inflows, sources said.

Dividends paid by a domestic company are subject to dividend distribution tax at 15% of the aggregate dividend declared, distributed or paid.

According to sources, there would hardly be any revenue loss by eliminating the dividend distribution tax, since it would be offset by the taxes paid by shareholders.

## PM's economic advisory council reconstituted

JP Morgan's Sajid Chinoy inducted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday announced that it had reconstituted the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council for a period of two years.

"Government of India has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a period of two years with effect from September 26, 2019," it said in a statement. "Dr. Bibek Debroy and Shri Ratan P. Watal will continue to be the chairman and member secretary, respectively, of the reconstituted EAC-PM."

The release added that the EAC-PM would have two part-time members apart

from the two full-time members. Ashima Goyal will be retained as a part-time member and joined by Sajid Chenoy, currently JP Morgan's chief India economist.

"Apart from these two full-time members, the EAC-PM will have two part-time members," the release added. "While Dr. Ashima Goyal continues to be one of the part-time members, Dr. Sajid Chinoy has been made as another part-time member."

What the government did not expressly mention was that, with this structure and appointments, the two dissenting members Rathin Roy and Shamika Ravi have not been retained.

"It has the potential to attract large FPI flows but it will take some time. The impact cannot be seen in a few weeks but it's a very good

## Mobile phone export grows over 8-fold'

Shipments exceed imports for the first time, says industry body ICEA



India calling: The country has set a target of making 100 crore mobile handsets indigenously by 2025. ■ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

as per ICEA.

## Net zero imports

The government has set "net zero imports" in electronics by 2020 under Digital India roadmap released in August 2014.

For mobile handset segment alone, the government, under the National

Policy on Electronics 2019, had set a target of making 100 crore mobile handsets indigenously by 2025, valued at about ₹13 lakh crore.

Out of the 100-crore mobile handset manufacturing target, 60 crore units will be for exports valued at about ₹7 lakh crore.

"Import of handsets, as a percentage of domestic market demand, which was approximately 80% in 2014-15, came down appreciably to 6% in 2018-19 with the sector leading towards 'net zero' import status faster than expected," he said.

He said the mobile handset exports at ₹11,200 crore have exceeded imports of handsets in 2018-19 which is recorded for the first time ever. "Mobile imports stood at ₹10,000 crore in 2018-19. Symbolically, this is a very important achievement for India," he said.

## More surveillance

Besides, the two exchanges have also announced additional surveillance measures for companies wherein the creditors of a listed company

## 'Need to grow at 10% for unemployment to go'

Target within reach, says Swamy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The economy needs to grow at 10% a year – and it can – for unemployment to be removed in 10 years, according to Member of Parliament Subramanian Swamy.

"Reports appearing in sections of the social media about RBI closing down certain commercial banks are false," the RBI spokesperson said in his Twitter handle.

Finance secretary Rakesh Kumar also took to Twitter to post a strong rebuttal. "No question of closing any PSB, which are articles of faith," he said.

Mr. Kumar added, "Rather, govt. is strengthening PSBs with reforms and infusion of capital to better serve its customers."

## Slowdown edges out 112 from India Rich list

Indian headcount rises to 953 from 831 last year; networth of 344 individuals falls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The economic slowdown and rupee depreciation have led to significant erosion in the networth of Indian billionaires, with 344 individuals registering a net drop in wealth compared to 2018, constituting almost 50% of Hurun India Rich List 2018.

A total of 112 individuals dropped out from IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019

## IN BRIEF



## Uber to offer accident insurance to riders

NEW DELHI Ride-hailing giant Uber said it would offer free insurance to its riders in case of accidents. Riders will be insured for up to ₹5 lakh in case of accidental death or disability and up to ₹2 lakh for hospitalisation, including an OPD benefit of up to ₹50,000. Uber, which operates in over 40 Indian cities, has partnered with Bharti AXA to provide insurance for car rides and with Tata AIG for auto and Uber Moto rides. PTI

## Sachin Bansal picks up majority stake in CRIDS

NEW DELHI Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal has acquired stake in Chaitanya Rural Intermediation Development Services (CRIDS) and infused ₹739 crore into the non-banking financial company. Mr. Bansal will also assume the role of CEO, a statement said. Founded by Anand Rao and Samit Shetty, CRIDS provides credit access to the under-banked and a majority of its business is in the area of microfinance. PTI

## CG Power board names Guha as chairman

NEW DELHI CG Power and Industrial Solutions on Wednesday said its board has appointed a non-executive independent director Ashish Kumar Guha as its chairman with effect from September 25, 2019. The board has approved the proposal to set up special situation committee. The broad terms of reference of the panel is to focus on operational improvement, capital re-structuring, among others. PTI

## IRCTC ₹645-cr. IPO opens Sept. 30

Post-issue, government's stake will come down to 87.5% from 100% now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the railways' online ticketing, tourism and catering arm, plans to enter the capital market with an initial public offer of ₹645 crore.

The public issue will open for subscription on September 30 and close on October 3. The company is the only entity authorised by the Ministry of Railways to provide catering services to the railways, offer online railway tickets and packaged drinking water at railway stations and trains in India.

The public offering is part of the government's disinvestment programme and will lead to the holding by the government – which holds the stake through Mi-



IRCTC is the only entity authorised by the Ministry of Railways to provide catering services to the railways. ■ RAMESH SHARMA

nistry of Railways – declining from the current 100% to 87.5%. The company will offer nearly 2.02 crore shares in the price band of ₹315 to ₹320 each.

The company will also be offering a discount of ₹10 on each share to applicants in the retail and employee categories.

Since this is an offer for sale by the government, IRCTC will not be receiving any proceeds from the issue.

IRCTC earns the maximum revenue (55%) from its catering operations followed by travel and tourism (23.38%), ticketing (12.35%) and 'Rail Neer' (9.28%).

## 53 million users

Incidentally, the IRCTC ticketing website has more than 53 million registered users and about 8.4 lakh tickets are booked daily with the annual transaction value pegged at ₹36,000 crore.

For the financial year ended March 31, 2019, the company reported a net profit of ₹272.56 crore, which was higher than the previous year's ₹220.62 crore. The company, which is completely debt-free, had cash reserves of ₹1,140.04 crore as on March 31, 2019.

## Johnson Lifts sets up ₹125-cr. unit

Company's new facility can manufacture 6,000 lifts a year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Johnson Lifts, a manufacturer of elevators and escalators, has set up a new unit at Sengadu, near here, to produce 6,000 lifts per annum, said a top official.

"Foreseeing the growth in lift requirement, we have set up a new, integrated, fully-automated lift factory at Sengadu, by investing ₹125 crore," said V. Jagannathan, executive director, Johnson Lifts Pvt. Ltd.



V. Jagannathan

cost of ₹13 crore to produce 500 escalators per annum.

The first line has a capacity to produce 600 commercial escalators per annum," he said. Asserting the firm had not been impacted by the economic slowdown, Mr. Jagannathan said the firm was aiming at a sales turnover of ₹3,000 crore for FY20 compared with ₹2,000 crore for

FY19. To a question, he said opportunities in government schemes, affordable housing and smart cities, upgradation of railway stations, airports, infrastructure projects and leveraging tier-II and tier-III cities and north eastern States will enable the firm to achieve its sales target. "Last year, we sold 10,000 lifts and 1,400 elevators and this fiscal, our aim is to sell 13,000 lifts and 1,600 elevators.

"Besides, we will be entering new overseas markets," said Yohan K. John, director, Johnson Lifts. Albert Dhiraviam, country head, marketing, said Johnson had orders from Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I Extension work for ₹33 crore, Mumbai Metro for ₹247 crore and Central and Western Railways for ₹197 crore.

## Dvara KGFS raises ₹70 cr. from NMI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Dvara KGFS, formerly Pudhuhaar Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., has received an equity inflow of ₹70 crore from Norway-based Nordic Microfinance Initiative (NMI) to expand its operations.

"With the current round of funding, we have received ₹67 crore," said Samir Shah, executive vice-chair and group president, Dvara Trust. "The funds will be used to expand our operations, pursue inorganic growth opportunities and invest in scaling up technology infrastructure," he said.

Dvara KGFS also plans to raise ₹200 crore through an NCD issue next quarter.

## Fortum to add 300 MW solar power annually

Finnish major's India arm plans to invest ₹6,500 crore in the country over 5 years

PIYUSH PANDEY  
MUMBAI

On September 20 seeking directions to the lenders, who own 51% in the airline since March, to release interim funds.

The lenders had earlier approved to sanction ₹63 crore in interim funding to meet the day-to-day needs and also fees for the RP.

The RP had informed the tribunal that if the interim financing is not done in time, the corporate insolvency resolution process would come to a halt.

Following this, the lenders had approved interim financing measures.

The NCLT, had on June 20, admitted the insolvency petition filed by the lenders' consortium led by State Bank against Jet.



Bright sheen: Fortum aims to take its total installed capacity to over 2,100 MW. ■ KOMMURI SRINIVAS

ments of up to ₹400 million in India.

India's solar capacity had reached 30,000 MW by July 2019 and the government has a target to reach 1 lakh MW capacity of solar power

by 2022 with potential investments of \$100 billion.

When asked if the target of 1 lakh MW by 2022 was achievable, Mr. Aggarwal said, "We have leapfrogged from 400 MW of solar capaci-

ty in 2012-13 to over 30,000 MW now. Last year alone, we added over 8,000 MW. I think we can do around 10,000 MW each year in the coming years."

Fortum has entered into a 50:50 joint venture with Numaligarh Refinery Limited to set up a bio-ethanol plant in north east with a project cost of ₹1,500 crore. The company will use bamboo as raw material for its bio-ethanol plant.

"The construction of the plant has started and the project is likely to be completed by 2021. We will be selling the ethanol to Numaligarh Refinery," said Mr. Aggarwal.

Fortum is also planning to set up electric vehicle charging stations across India.

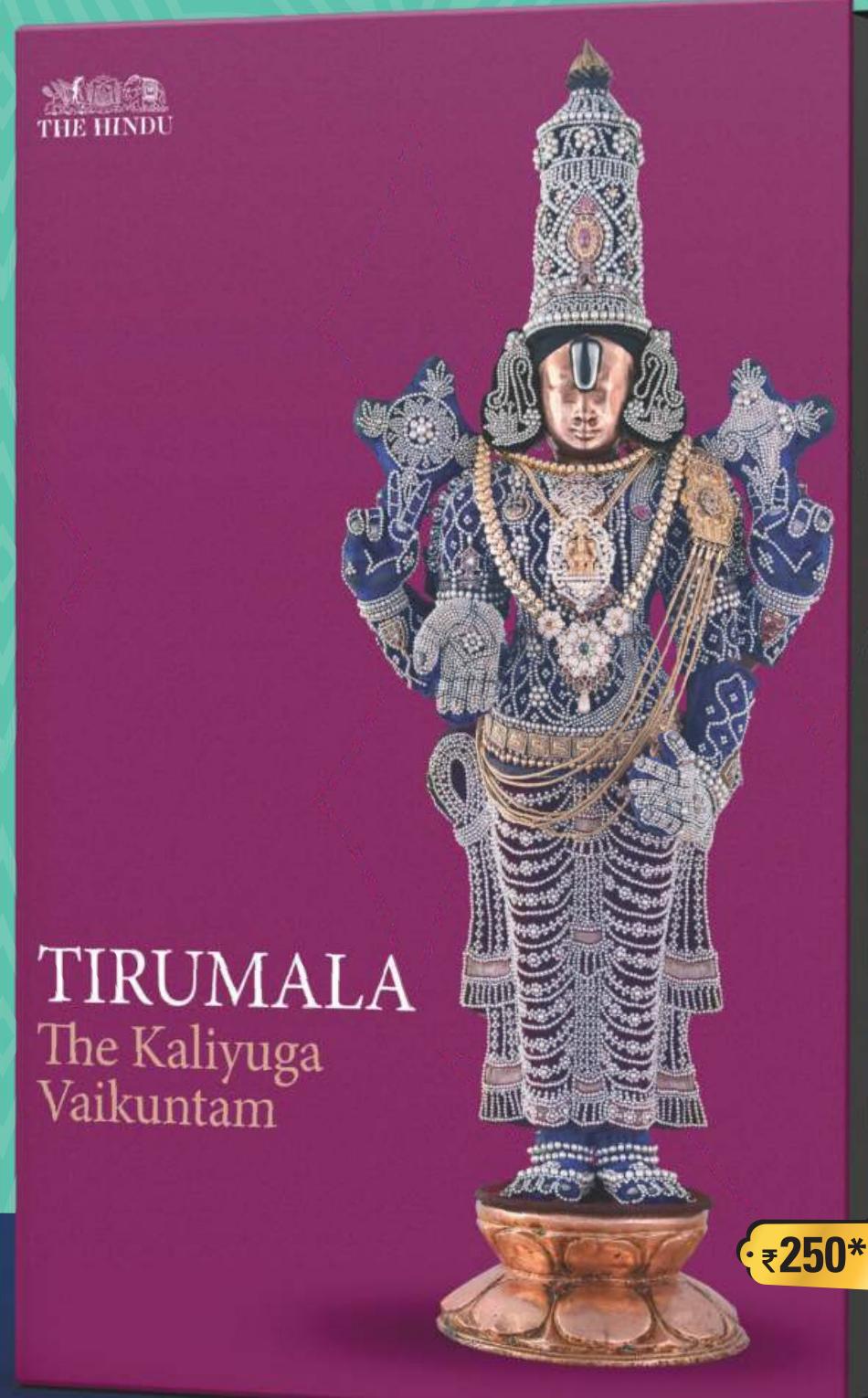
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

## GET BLESSED BY THE LORD OF THE SEVEN HILLS

A collector's edition filled with fabulous pictures of the Lord and articles on the famous temple, the Brahmotsavam and on the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam



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**Spy story** Stills from *The Family Man* • VIJAY BATE, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



• We still think we are making a movie, just slightly longer

KRISHNA D K  
Filmmaker



• We were waiting to do a long format series

RAJ NIDIMORU  
Filmmaker

# 'There's no hero-giri in the show'

Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D K on their new Prime Video series *The Family Man*, and creating a homespun government agent who banks on the system of *jugaad*

SUCHETA CHAKRABORTY

When asked whether their new series engages with the popular and oft-visited espionage genre, Raj Nidimoru, one half of the writer-director duo popularly known as Raj and DK, says, "We didn't want to be derivative by making another spy show like another spy show". Raj's partner-in-film, Krishna D K asserts that there are no examples in popular culture to draw direct parallels to: "I don't think there is another show like this, with this tone, in this subject." Raj clarifies that rather than a conventional spy

show, their 10-episode series is a take on the geopolitical scenario in the subcontinent today. Author Suman Kumar who has a keen sense of the geopolitics of the country, assisted the duo with research and plotting and was a great addition to how they usually write.

## Down to earth

For their show the creators did not want to rely on technologies which are so commonly used in spy thrill-



ers. "I don't even know if some of them exist," says Raj, "Where you could type on your laptop and open a bank vault somewhere." The idea instead was to add a local, native flavour and use the *jugaad* system to find solutions. "There's no hero-giri in the show," insists DK. "These are normal, somewhat trained people, rising to the occasion and figuring out what to do." Moreover, Raj remarks that the biggest draw is the humour, an element not traditionally associated with an anti-terrorism show.

## The regular guys

At the centre of *The Family Man* is someone who, as DK puts it,

"You see on a train or standing next to you at the vada pao stall." He is the common man with the regular job. Except, in this case, it is that of fighting terrorism. "It's an ordinary guy doing an extraordinary job," he states. The show brings to the fore the stories of these middle class heroes who go unnoticed and almost never get the credit they deserve. "The only time that these characters would be in the news is if they screwed up. If they do their jobs well, their names won't even be mentioned," observes DK.

While research involved meeting with real-life agents and even an ex-RAW chief, what interested the duo more than the classified information about operations was their personalities, especially how they functioned in their daily lives and how their families dealt with the reality of their professions. "We were interested in them besides the plot," says Raj. Contrary to popular representations, the creators wanted to highlight the mundaneness and the unglamorous nature of these government agents' lives.

When it came to casting, both Raj and DK declare that Manoj Bajpayee was the first actor who came to mind, and recall how excited he was to play the part when they approached him. While Bajpayee represents the quintessential common man, he has also played complex, menacing characters in films like *Aks* and *Gangs of Wasseypur*. "He can switch shades within a scene and that was perfect for the role," says DK, expressing that the actor is so adept at presenting this kind of duality that he was surprised that he had not experimented with it before.

On their maiden venture into the digital space, Raj says, "You have been playing one-day matches and now you're getting to play test cricket." They share that they had signed on to do the show with Amazon almost three years ago when the service was just setting up shop in India. "We were waiting to do a long format," says Raj speaking of the attention the space has been receiving in recent years while DK points out that the exacting task of writing an almost eight-hour screenplay was perhaps the only negative. Having gotten a taste for the medium the duo admits that there is more to come. Their approaches however have not changed much: "We still think we are making a movie, just slightly longer," they both assert.

## PEOPLE

### A TikTok turnaround

How an NCR-based acting aspirant became a spoken-English sensation on TikTok

Once a practising lawyer in the United States, Sangeeta Jain — "older than an average TikTok user" — is now a star, popularly known as Geet, on the platform. She has two channels on the video platform: on the first, @TheOfficialGeet, she puts up motivational, self-care, and self-help videos; on the second, @EnglishWithGeet, she shares snippet-sized spoken English lessons. "Hindi se English seekhne ke liye mere saath TikTok par judd jayiye," is her consistent sign off.

Geet, who grew up in Seattle, wanted to be an actor. A childhood accident though, paralysed her waist-down. Her dependence on a wheelchair had kept her from breaking into the film industry. After being back-and-forth between India and the U.S., to work with children and at-risk youth here, in 2014 Geet participated on a Zee TV reality show, *India's Best Cinestars ki Khaj*. She couldn't make it past the dance rounds.

"With that, the acting *keeda* had come back again," she says. In August 2015, with her brother's encouragement, she started her own Facebook Page. But not knowing what would work, she started with motivational videos.

She took this to TikTok in February last year, while also putting up comedy shorts that she made with her 87-year-old grandmother. "But to my surprise, it was the motivational videos that did better; we had videos on socially relevant topics like domestic violence, *sads bahu* relationships, and confidence. I was getting thousands of views and comments even within the first few weeks," recalls Geet.

Over time, noticing that her Hindi was weaker than her English, which she still speaks with an American accent, her audience started writing in with special request to clarify something. And so it began. She started with simple vocabulary ("gorgeous" instead of saying "very pretty") or correcting common mistakes (saying "ladies" even for singular usage, instead of "lady"). Her mother and grandmother starred in the video, acting like two people in conversation who didn't know the right usage.

Today, Geet (she has about 4.5M followers on TikTok, 51.4k subscribers on YouTube and 5.4M followers on Facebook) also makes videos where she teaches English by translating a couple lines from popular Hindi songs. On Facebook and YouTube, she does a three-minute long series, which she makes and stars in, with other actors.

Given her legal training in the United States, Geet says she believes in the freedom of speech.

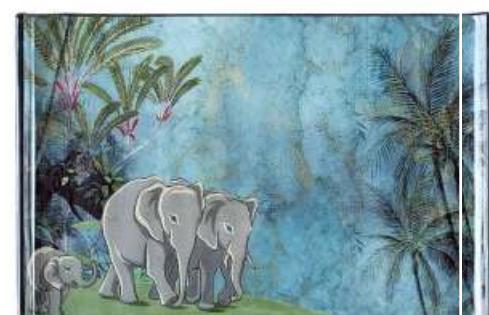
The TikTok suspension for a brief time in April by the Madras High Court, didn't stop her from uploading videos, because technically "the app was still alive," she recalls, adding that "it's been great to see TikTok step up too," with initiatives like *Wait A Second To Reflect*, a campaign that the platform started in August, and *#EduTalk* their in-app challenge, which started in June.

"The great thing is that the audience [on TikTok] is very eager to learn," says Geet, who puts up three to five videos a day catering to different types of audiences, such as lessons on English words; for kitchen appliances, or Hindi slang words and their equivalent in English.

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

## PRODUCT

### The island life



Good Earth recently launched their annual collection for the year. Called *Maladvipa*, the design language is inspired from the Maldives and the coral-island life of the Indian Ocean (mala means garland and *dvipa*, island). Colours are derived from the sea and the land that draws its tropical energy from the sun and the ocean. Expect sea jasm ne, leafy palms, red hibiscus, on tableware (bone China and ceramics), home decor items and linen. There's also recycled glassware (abstract pieces from the bottom of the furnace) and brassware (from old locks).

At Good Earth stores countrywide, [Goodearth.in](http://Goodearth.in); ₹2,000 upward

Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



### DANCE

As part of IIC Double Bill Dance Recitals, there will be Bharatanatyam recital by Divya Ravi, a disciple of Guru Dr. Soundarya Srivatsa, this evening. This will be followed by an Odissi recital by Abhayalakshmi, a disciple of Sharmila Mukherjee. The event will conclude with a dance duet by both the artistes, from Bengaluru.

**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

**TIME:** 6 p.m. onwards



### EXHIBITION

**Mixed media** *Transiting Space* is an ongoing solo show of paintings by abstract artist Shivani Garg, who is showcasing her recent mixed media and canvas works. A graduate in commerce, Shivani's paintings speak of construction, destruction, and urbanisation. The artworks comprise acrylic, charcoal, textures, pen works, on canvas.

**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

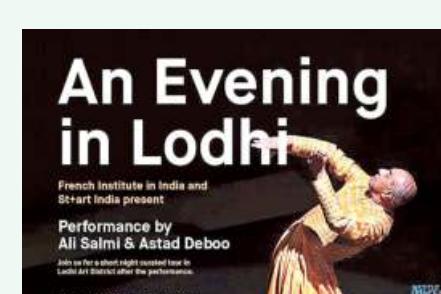


### CUISINE

**Dimsum fest** Lord of the Drinks Noida, a multi-cuisine restaurant, has organised a Dimsum festival, till the end of September. The menu comprises a wide variety to choose from: Truffle Asparagus and Corn, Crystal Vegetable Dumpling, Bok Choy and Mushroom Dimsum, Chicken Thai Herb Dimsum and Shanghai Prawn.

**VENUE:** Garden Galleria Mall, Sector 38

**TIME:** 12 noon - 1 a.m.



### PERFORMANCE

**Dance choreography** The French Institute in India in association with St+art India present a dance collaboration between French choreographer Ali Salmi and renowned Indian choreographer Astad Deboo, as part of the Malraux Seminar 2019. Through movement, the dancers will explore gravity and antigravity in an aerial and anchored dance form.

**VENUE:** Lodhi Art District, Block C, Lodhi Colony

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.



### FILM

**French documentary** IHC Film Club will screen a French documentary, *Les glaneurs et la glaneuse*, this evening, as a tribute to the director, late Agnès Varda. The film captures the world of French gleaners, as they hunt for food, knicknacks, thrown-away items, and even their personal connection, to the many aspects of gleaning.

**VENUE:** Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

**TIME:** 7 p.m.



# A study in scarlet

Surrounding the scenic city of Visakhapatnam are many ecologically-sensitive zones perched along the coastline and the Eastern Ghats. Ahead of World Tourism Day, take a peek into these spots

NIVEDITA GANGULY

Towering red sand dunes – some as high as 40 feet – envelope you in a resounding silence at Erra Matti Dibbalu near Visakhapatnam. The occasional patch of green trees extends out of the sandy hills. Walking through the endless, meandering maze of these dunes, a rare geological occurrence in this part of the globe, can be a fascinating experience, if you have a knowledgeable guide along with you.

Located near Bheemunipatnam, the Erra Matti Dibbalu site is more than 12,000 years old. It was recognised as a national geo-heritage site in 2014 and as a protected site by the Andhra Pradesh Government in 2016. The only other place in the country to have a similar stretch of red sand dunes is Tamil Nadu, which has the Teri dune complex.

Sand dunes, like other geologically-significant sites in and around Visakhapatnam, are Paleo-environmental indicators and these can give vital clues to the past and the future

for scientists," says D Rajasekhar Reddy, advisor to Geo Heritage Cell of INTACH and former professor of Geology, Andhra University.

About 18,500 years ago, a major climatic shift took place during the Glacial Maximum Age. This phenomenon, interestingly, is linked to the formation of the red sand dunes.

"During that period, the sea had receded about 50 kilometres from the present coastline, with a vertical drop of 120 metres. As a result, the continental shelf was exposed and sand was transported and deposited on land," explains Reddy. Incidentally, the sand was never the shade of red (as we see it today) back then. "The red colour is a result of geo-chemical alterations that happened over the years," he states.

As you walk around the red sand dunes, you would notice a peculiar characteristic of these hills. The red dunes are neither rocky, nor sand-like, but have an unusual texture that binds them together. Only when you climb over these dunes and walk over the top of this geological



Frozen in time The red sand dunes; (top) natural rock formations of Thotlakonda  
■ KR DEEPAK

site can you get an idea of its vast expanse, spread over more than 100 acres.

## Natural arch

A little before Erra Matti Dibbalu is another geologically-sensitive site, perched along the coastline of Thotlakonda.

Here one of the most noteworthy geological developments is still in progress. Thousands of years of wind and sand action along the

shore has resulted in natural rock formations – something that has turned into a tourist attraction in recent years. Some are in the shape of dunes and others form bridge-like arches, seen better during low tide. This particular coast also teems with marine life, including brown algae and the peacock's tail.

"This particular spot is a live laboratory for researchers and students," says Reddy. And there is plenty of reason to believe so. "This

natural rock formation is still evolving with Nature. The formation began after the last Ice Age at around 10,000 years ago and is similar to the natural rock arch of Silathorana in the Tirumala Hills," he adds.

## Wonders in Eastern Ghats

Moving towards the Eastern Ghats belt of Visakhapatnam opens up another site of geological significance – a volcanic ash site in Araku.

The Geological Survey of India has dated this site to be about 73,000 years old. Here, a large part of land is covered by a 70-centimetre-thick sheet of volcanic ashes, which moved all the way from the Mount Toba volcanic eruption that occurred about 75,000 years ago in Indonesia.

"The sites needs to be studied to understand the magnitude of the explosion, climatic condition then and how ash traversed such great distances to settle down in a remote corner of India," says Reddy. It is intriguing and provides a major clue in the reconstruction of the geological history of the rocks of the region."

## HOW TO GET THERE

**ERRA MATTI DIBBALU:** These red sand dunes are located at a distance of 45 kilometres from Visakhapatnam. It is well connected by buses and one can also hire a cab to reach there.

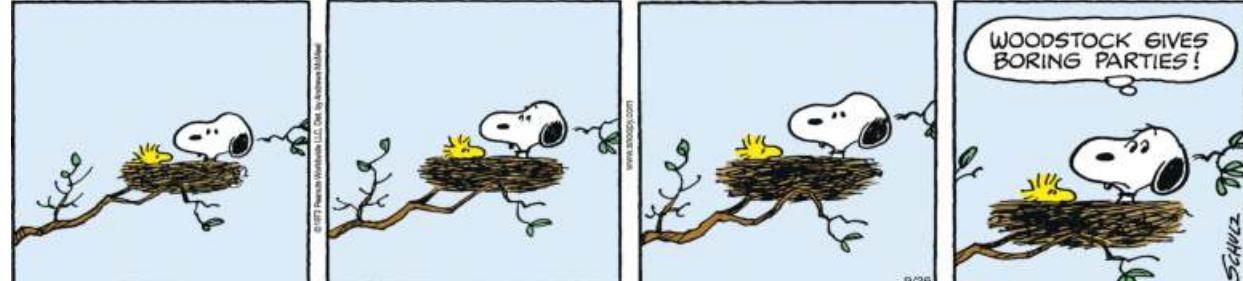
**THOTLAKONDA NATURAL ARCH:** The drive along the coastal stretch from Visakhapatnam towards Thotlakonda Buddhist Site is 36 kilometres. After crossing the site, a signboard mentions the presence of natural rock formations. Park your vehicle at the roadside and walk down towards the beach to discover these geological wonders.

**ARAKU VALLEY:** The scenic valley is situated at a distance of 120 kilometres from Visakhapatnam. It is well connected by train, bus and cabs.

## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## TIGER



## GRAFFITI



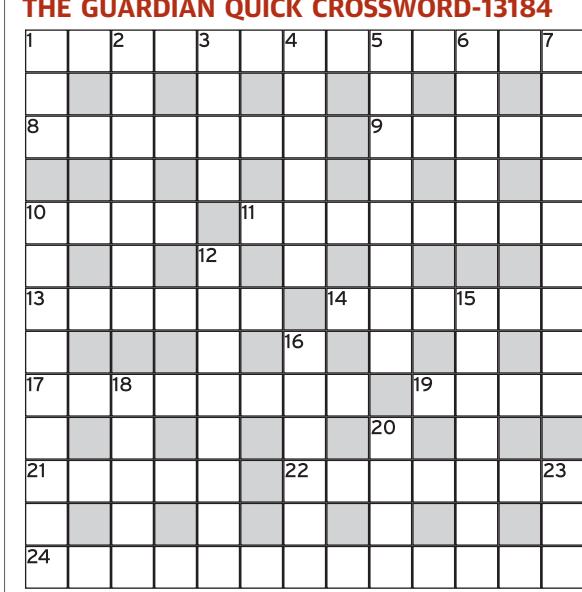
## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



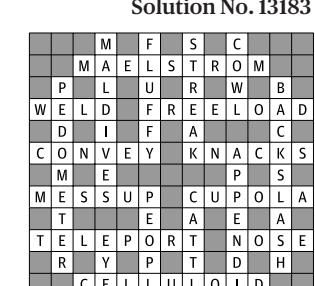
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audience (7)  
3 Having two distinct functions (4)  
4 Handbook (6)  
5 Casually mention famous people you know (4-4)  
6 Great Lake (5)  
7 Green nut (9)  
10 Stimulate (4-5)  
12 Gesundheit! (5,3)  
15 Spiral pasta (7)  
16 Wild dog-like animal (6)  
18 Cloth made from flax (5)  
20 Social insects (4)  
23 Turn up earth (3)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 27, 2019.

Solution No. 13183



WHAT IS THE SUGAR CONTENT OF SOME POPULAR DRINKS?  
Q. HOW MUCH SUGAR IS IN  
MELLO YELLO? (7)  
A. 12 OZ. OF MELLO YELLO  
CONTAINS 170 CALORIES  
AND 46 GRAMS OF SUGAR.  
BUT ADDED SUGAR IS  
NOT COUNTED.  
TRY IT!  
REMEMBER THIS NEXT  
TIME YOU'RE SHOPPING FOR  
DRINKS: A 16-OZ. COLA DRINK  
CONTAINS 15 GM SUGAR  
(12 TSP), 16-0Z. GLASS OF  
LIMONADE, 50 GM SUGAR (12  
TSP). 16-OZ. SWEETENED ICED  
TEA: 30 GM SUGAR (7 TSP).  
16 OZ. FRUIT JUICE:  
46 GM SUGAR (11 TSP).  
P.S. Careful: Don't count added sugar  
of the diagnostic materials.

■ Across  
1 Skill with a blade (13)  
8 Choose not to vote (7)  
9 Social customs (5)  
10 Title given in parts of Asia to important people (4)  
11 Second-largest Mediterranean island, after Sicily (8)  
13 Descendant of  
■ Down  
1 Salt water (3)  
2 Visible to the theatre

French settlers in Louisiana (6)  
14 Back scrubber (6)  
17 Rep (8)  
19 Norwegian city, formerly Kristiania (4)  
21 Irk (5)  
22 Set on fire (7)  
24 Severe reprimand (6-7)  
■ Down  
1 Salt water (3)  
2 Visible to the theatre

Dravid to depose



Rahul Dravid.

■ K. MURALI KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

A high profile conflict of interest (COI) issue-related hearing will be conducted here on Thursday by the BCCI Ethics Officer Justice (Retd) D.K. Jain, and attention will be on one of India's most distinguished cricketers, Rahul Dravid.

The coach and mentor of the India-A and U-19 was recently appointed Head of the NCA.

It has been alleged that Dravid is on the payrolls of India Cements, once-owner of the IPL team Chennai Super Kings. COI rules say that an individual holding a BCCI post cannot be part of any other party associated with BCCI's activities.

## Lanka-India T20I series

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Sri Lanka will play three T20Is against India on January 5 (Guwahati), Jan. 7 (Indore) and Jan. 10 (Pune). Sri Lanka is the replacement for Zimbabwe which was suspended by the ICC.

## All eyes on the sky as rain looms

South Africans and BPXI players keen to get some action ahead of the Test series

### SA IN INDIA

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
VIZIANAGARAM

Rain threat persists as the visiting South African team and the Board President's XI are scheduled to meet in a three-day warm-up game at the Dr. PVG Raju Sports Complex here from Thursday.

Rains lashed the town on Wednesday morning but receded by afternoon much to the relief of the District Association officials. "If it doesn't rain tonight, then there will be a prompt start to the match," said a senior VDCA official.

With the first Test between India and South Africa scheduled for Visakhapatnam from October 2, this match assumes significance as it is expected to provide a platform for the fringe players to raise the bar and grab the attention of the national selectors.

More so for player like captain Rohit Sharma, who had two forgetful outings in the T20I series against South Africa. The other Test squad member who will be the focus of attention is Mayank Agarwal.

### Big match

In a way, this is a big match for players like Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair and wicket-keeping batsman K. Srikanth Bharat who, when he last played at this venue, scored a century against Hyderabad in a Ranji Trophy game.

The 31-year-old Umesh Yadav, who last played in a Test



The skipper's here! Rohit Sharma will look to make the warm-up game count. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

in 2018 and replaced the injured Jasprit Bumrah in the Test squad, should grab the chance to get into the groove before the first match.

It is no different for the likes of pacers Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan and all-rounder Jalaj Saxena.

On the other hand, this will be the final opportunity

for skipper Faf du Plessis, vice-captain Temba Bavuma and the in-form Quinton de Kock to fine-tune their skills for the longer format.

**The teams (from):** Board President's XI: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Siddhesh Lad, K.S. Bharat (wk), Jalax Saxena,

Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Avesh Khan, Ishan Porel, Shardul Thakur, and Umesh Yadav.

**South Africa XI:** Faf du Plessis (Capt.), Temba Bavuma (vice-capt.), Kagiso Rabada, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Vernon Philander, Keshav Maharaj, Dane Piedt, Zubair Hamza, Lungi Ngidi, Aiden Markram, Theunis de Bruyn, Heinrich Klassen, Anrich Nortje, and Senuram Muthusamy.

## KSL a real learning curve: Jemimah

Says her ability to finish games is the biggest takeaway from the league

### SA WOMEN IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR  
SURAT

When she burst out onto the international arena at the start of 2018, Jemimah Rodrigues, then 17, was tipped to carry forward the tradition of Mumbai's batting from the men's to the women's cricket arena.

Thanks to her rich rewards in the Kia Super League (KSL) in England – her maiden appearance in an overseas league – Jemimah seems to have justified the tag of being the next big thing.

Jemimah's exploits – 401 runs at 57.28 with a strike rate of 49.62, including a record unbeaten 112 off 58 balls – in England showed that the teenager has matured as a batter.

But more than her record-spree, she stressed that her ability to finish games as her biggest learning from the KSL sojourn.

### Finish it

"I used to never finish a game. I used to bat well and not take it till the end. My dad [Ivan, also her coach] used to always say that a real champion is the one who



Managing the transition: Jemimah Rodrigues will be keen to transfer her gains from the KSL to India's cause. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

takes his team to victory. I could do it in the KSL. That was the biggest learning for me," a bubbly Jemimah told *The Hindu* on Wednesday, after persistent rain forced the Indian women to cancel their training session ahead

of Thursday's second T20I against South Africa.

That she was made to bat at No. 4 for a better part of the KSL – instead of her usual position in the top-three while playing for and in India – helped a great

deal. "To get quick runs, bat with the tail, take the responsibility and see the team through was a real learning curve. I don't think I would have got that experience playing in India."

### Growing experience

She admitted that the KSL stint was also a "growing experience" in terms of "getting out of the comfort zone." Her maturity came to the fore when she emphasised that during her topsy-turvy ride with the National team so far, the "lows have helped the most".

She admitted that carrying drinks during the Asia Cup last year created "self-doubts about whether I was good enough for international cricket," but also made her "work harder" on her game.

She may have turned 19 barely three weeks ago, but her clarity of thought proved that she was no longer the 'baby of the team', a tag she had to abandon during her professional commitment in England.

It was, in a way, symbolic that with the inclusion of the 15-year-old Shafali Verma in the squad, Jemimah is no longer the baby of the team.

The 28-year-old still has time till June 29, 2020, to get the A-mark. But the competition in Bengaluru was the one he had targeted and had warmed up well by clocking 22.44 at the senior Nationals in Bhopal earlier this month.

The second match saw Jaipur Pink Panthers start tentatively but race ahead to a comfortable 43-34 win against Puneri Paltan.

Panthers, who remained in the seventh spot, still have a chance of qualifying.

**The results:** Bengal Warriors 40 (Maninder Singh 17, Suresh Hegde 5) bt Telugu Titans 39 (Siddharth Desai 15, Rajnish 6, Rakesh Gowda 5, Abozar Mohajernaghani 5); Jaipur Pink Panthers 43 (Deepak Hooda 12, Deepak Narwal 11, Niles Salunke 7) bt Puneri Paltan 34 (Pankaj Mohite 14, Manjeet 8).

managed to win a point, Maninder would hit back with two of his own.

With a well-rounded defence led by veteran Jeeva Kumar that kept the pressure on the opposition, his attacks made all the difference.

Siddharth Desai tried gamely to counter Maninder's challenge, scoring 15 points, but despite his best attempts – including a super raid and an all-out of his own – found his team falling short in defence.

Titans, in fact, scored five more raid points than Warriors, most of them coming

in the last 90 seconds, but it was too late.

### Contrasting scenario

While Warriors have already comfortably qualified for the playoffs, Titans continue to languish in the penultimate spot, with its playoff hopes all over.

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# World Championships an important test for Qatar

Seen as a dress rehearsal to gauge the nation's preparedness for the 2022 FIFA World Cup

## ATHLETICS

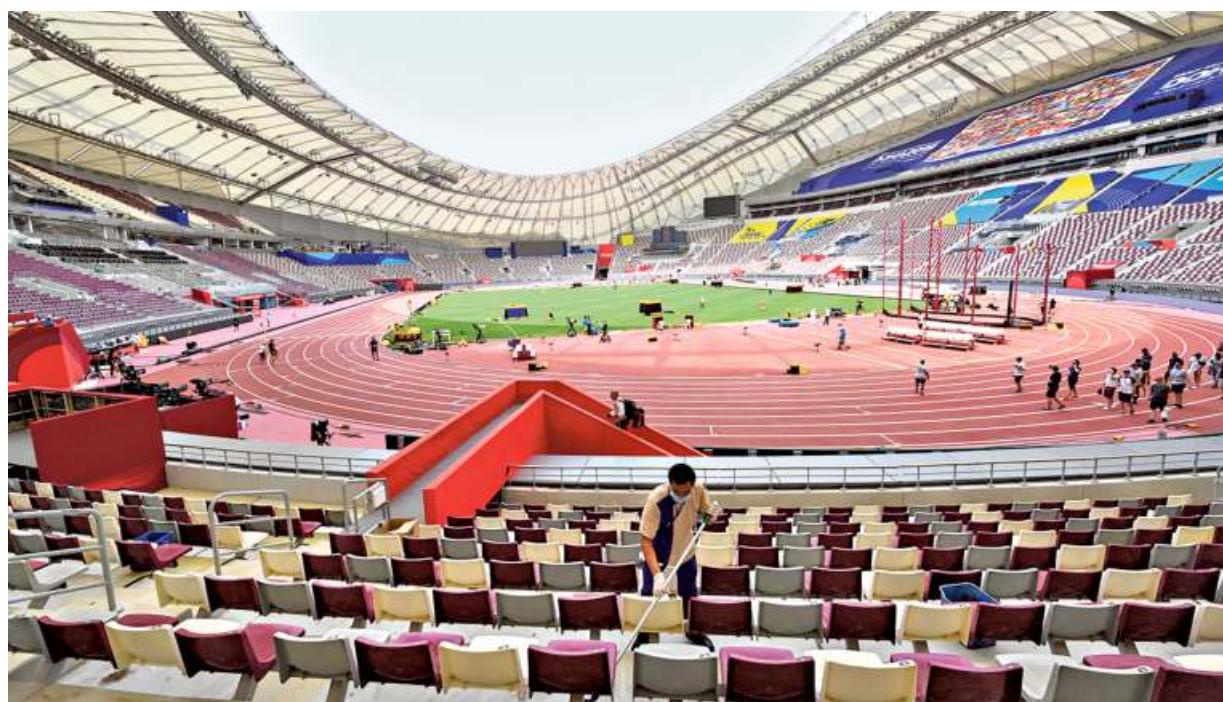
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DOHA

Qatar is preparing to welcome thousands of fans and competitors for the World Athletics Championships starting on Friday, an event seen as a staging post towards the 2022 football World Cup.

The 10-day event in the capital Doha will be a key test ahead of the football extravaganza in the gas-rich Gulf monarchy, although the track and field showcase will play out on a far smaller scale.

World Cup organisers and football fans will be anxious to see if Qatar can overcome problems encountered at a recent World Cup qualifying fixture, stubborn Doha traffic and unfinished public transport to deliver a smooth championships.

An ongoing diplomatic spat between Qatar and several neighbours could threaten to overshadow the competition, as well as possibly dent the numbers of spectators and competitors.



**Facelift:** The Khalifa International Stadium is spruced up for the mega event. •AP

This is how Qatar has prepared for the tournament in key areas:

### Security

Qatari pro-government media has heavily publicised recent training exercises staged by the US FBI in Doha

to equip Qatari officers with "crisis and disaster management" skills.

The city was ranked the world's second safest by CEOWORLD magazine last month behind Abu Dhabi, capital of regional rival the United Arab Emirates.

However the Worlds hosts will be looking to avoid a repeat of chaotic scenes that played out during a World Cup qualifying fixture between Qatar and India earlier this month.

Indian fans with tickets were unable to access the ve-

nue and a surge of fans attempted to storm the ground during half-time as security staff struggled to bring the situation under control.

### Venues

Ahead of the opening ceremony, hundreds of volun-

teers were marshalled around Doha's Khalifa stadium by police while technicians hoisted vast lighting rigs into place in the venue's intricate lattice-work roof.

Chief organiser Dahan al-Hamad said at a recent sports integrity event in Doha that "Qatar is 100 percent ready for the championship – we are very excited".

The stadium, which will host most events, was first opened in 1976 but totally overhauled ahead of a re-launch in 2017 and has since successfully hosted Diamond League events.

The city's Corniche waterfront will be used for the marathon, being staged for the first time at midnight when the temperature will be lower. The route will also host the men's and women's 20 kilometre race walks and the mixed 50 kilometre race walk.

Construction teams worked around the clock to finish assembling the elaborate scaffold towers that line the route's central reservation and will support floodlights for the midnight mara-

thon. Qatar has invested heavily in transport infrastructure since being named 2022 World Cup hosts in 2010. It now boasts one of the world's largest hub airports and Qatar Airways is currently the best by an industry body.

But it is unclear if the multi-billion-dollar metro system's yellow line will be ready in time to shuttle spectators to the two new stations near the Khalifa stadium, al-Aziziyah and Sports City, both of which are shaped like Bedouin tents.

In the absence of a rail option, fans will access the stadium by road. The area is already popular with motorists and home to a mall, raising the prospect of traffic jams ahead of popular events.

Officials were pushing to overhaul several key bottlenecks and junctions across the city ahead of the high-point of the athletics calendar.

### Fans

While the Khalifa stadium can hold 46,000 people, it will be configured for fewer

fans during the World Championships with organisers hoping to attract around 14,000 spectators to the highest profile events.

### Tickets 'selling well'

Tickets are "selling well" according to an official, and members of Qatar's expatriate work force – Kenyans and Americans in particular – are expected to turn out.

It remains to be seen though how many fans from neighbouring Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will make it to Doha for the event.

The three countries, along with Egypt, have enforced a boycott of Qatar since June 2017 and their citizens are technically banned from travelling to the peninsula state.

The Riyadh-led coalition accuses Qatar of backing extremist groups and Iran, charges it denies – raising the spectre that politics could partially overshadow the athletics.

Nonetheless Saudi will send three athletes, Egypt and the UAE one a piece, and Bahrain 14 competitors in total.

## Felix eyes a golden track finale

American legend will be aiming to add to an incredible collection of 25 major medals

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DOHA

A warrior on and off the track, Allyson Felix is determined to go out on her own terms as she sets out on the final leg of her glittering career at the World Championships this week.

After 16 years at the pinnacle of her sport, the 33-year-old American has accumulated more World Championship and Olympic honours than any other track and field athlete in history. In Doha, she will be aiming to add to an incredible collection of 25 medals, a dazzling haul that includes six Olympic golds and 11 World Championship titles.

The Worlds mark the start of what is in all probability a year-long lap of honour, with Felix eyeing a golden farewell at what will be her fifth Olympics in Tokyo next year.

Felix will travel as part of the US relay pool as they look to defend the 4x400m title they won in London.

### Determined

Felix though says she is not going to be satisfied making up the numbers in the final stages of her career, and is determined to compete in Tokyo next year in the individ-



**Chugging on:** Allyson Felix says she is not going to be satisfied making up the numbers in the final stages of her career. •FILE PHOTO: AP

dual 400m. "I think it would be crazy for me to say that I was disappointed," Felix said after her sixth place finish at the US trials.

"I have my health, I have my family, I couldn't ask for more than that. And I am able to still do what I love. I want to be back at the Olympics," Felix said. "I want that more than anything. I want to go out on my terms. A little sacrifice here or there, I believe it will be worth it."

Felix has also emerged as a leading voice for the rights of women athletes.

In May, she denounced long-time sponsors Nike over the company's maternity practices, calling for greater support for female athletes who take time off from the sport to have children.

"If we have children, we risk pay cuts from our sponsors during pregnancy and afterward," Felix wrote in a *New York Times* editorial. "It's one example of a sports industry where the rules are still mostly made for and by men."

The effects of Felix's criticisms were striking. Nike swiftly changed its policy, vowing to ensure no female athlete is adversely impacted financially by pregnancy.

Felix meanwhile signed a new sponsorship deal with the Athleta leisurewear company. "They're excited to celebrate me as a whole athlete. That's not just my performance, but being a mother and an activist as well," Felix told the *Washington Post* in a recent interview.

## Coleman battling sceptics in Doha

In the eyes of many, he is fortunate to be competing after the testing controversy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DOHA

Christian Coleman arrives at the World Championships as the heavy favourite for the 100m gold after an impressive season that has seen him clock a world-leading 9.81s.

But while the 23-year-old has left most of his rivals trailing firmly in his slipstream this year, he may find sceptics harder to shake off.

In the eyes of many, Coleman, the 2017 Worlds silver medallist over 100m, is extremely fortunate to even be competing in Doha.

In August, the athletics world was rocked by news that Coleman had registered three drug-testing "whereabouts" failures in a 12-month period – an offence usually regarded as equivalent to a failed drug test and followed by a ban of up to two years.

Yet with Coleman facing the very real possibility of a suspension that would have barred him from competing at the Worlds and next year's Olympics, the case collapsed this month because of a technicality.

At first glance, it appeared to be an open and shut case.

Coleman had recorded his first whereabouts failure on June 6 last year, before two



**Lucky?** Though Christian Coleman faced the possibility of a suspension, the case against him collapsed because of a technicality. •FILE PHOTO

more offences on January 16 and April 26. However the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) abruptly withdrew the charges against Coleman on Sept. 2 after a review of the rules regarding how the 12-month window should be calculated.

Under an obscure regulation in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) guidelines, Coleman's first missed case in June last year should have been backdated to the first day of that quarter, making the formal date of the

first offence April 1, 2018. Didn't know their own rules – they expect athletes to know the rules but they can't follow their own."

### 'Nobody's perfect'

That meant the dates of the three offences fell outside the required 12-month time frame for a doping offence to have occurred – leaving Coleman in the clear and free to compete in Doha.

Coleman responded to the news by demanding an apology from USADA, accusing the anti-doping body of smearing his reputation and insisting he had always been a clean athlete. "I have never failed a drug test and never will," Coleman said. "They

didn't know their own rules – they expect athletes to know the rules but they can't follow their own."

Coleman explained the three whereabouts failures as simply innocent mistakes, blaming his anxiety and last-minute schedule changes for his failure to update his location information. "People don't realise how easy it is to miss tests," Coleman said.

"People out there calling me an idiot, or I've gotta be stupid to miss tests. I don't know what people look like at, but nobody's perfect. People make mistakes."

## UEFA reveals venue for CL final

**A step up for Eziyoda**  
The Nigeria-born Australian is set for WNBA move

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LJUBLJANA

The 2021 UEFA Champions League final will be played in Sain Petersburg, European football's governing body announced on Tuesday.

The venues for the next three finals were revealed at UEFA's Executive Committee meeting in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, with Munich being awarded the 2022 showpiece and the 2023 final being given to Wembley.

In awarding the venues for the next three years, UEFA has had to take into account not just the likely demand for match tickets but also the importance of hotel rooms and transport infrastructure.

Meanwhile, UEFA also revealed that the 2021 Europa League final will be played in Seville. The Spanish city was chosen ahead of Georgian capital Tbilisi as the game returns to western Europe, next year's final will go to the Polish city of Gdansk.

The 2021 UEFA Super Cup match – between the winner of the Champions League and Europa League – will be played in Belfast.



Eziyoda Magbegor.

•K. MURALI KUMAR

campaign, where she was named the 'Most Valuable Player'. Eziyoda has since bagged professional contracts in the WNBL, first with Canberra Capitals and then with Melbourne Boomers.

While the imminent move to the United States of America is exciting, Eziyoda's immediate focus is on the continental championship here. "Playing in the Asia Cup is a great experience. The WNBA will be a lot more physical, so you have to be ready to match up," she said.

## Rohit up to eighth in T20 rankings

Kohli and Dhawan inch closer to top 10

### ICC RANKINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI

Rohit Sharma moved up a place to World No. 8 while Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan inched closer to a top-10 spot in the latest ICC T20 Rankings for batsmen released on Wednesday.

Kohli's unbeaten 72 in the second T20I of the three-match series against South Africa, has seen him gain one spot and reach 11th in

the list while Dhawan moved up three places to 13th after scores of 40 and 36.

Rohit is tied eighth with England's Alex Hales. Both batsmen have 664 points.

In the bowlers' ranking, Washington Sundar is the top-ranked Indian. He moved eight spots to 50th.

The latest rankings take into account the India-South Africa series, the Bangladesh tri-series featuring Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, as well as the Ireland, Scotland, Netherlands tri-series.

South Africa's Quinton de Kock moved up from 49th to 30th.

## Fitness key to Bangladesh tie: Stimac

### FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac on Wednesday said he wants all his players to be fully fit for the World Cup qualifying round match against Bangladesh at Kolkata on Oct. 15.

India had played out a goalless draw against Qatar in Doha on Sept. 15 in its second match of World Cup qualifiers round 2. India will take on Bangladesh on Oct. 15 in Kolkata. "We still have some uncertainties with

ready for the day," Stimac said.

**The probables: Goalkeepers:** Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Kamaljit Singh.

**Defenders:** Pritam Kotal, Nishu Kumar, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingan, Adil Khan, Narendar, Sarthak Golui, Anas Edathodika, Anwar Ali (Jr.), Mander Rao Dassai, Subhasish Bose, Jerry Lalrinzuala.

**Midfielders:** Udanta Singh, Nikhil Poojary, Vinit Rai, Anirudh Thapa, Abdul Samad, Raynier Fernandes, Brandon Fernandes, Halicharan Narzary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Ashique Kuruniyan.

**Forwards:** Sunil Chhetri, Balwant Singh, Manvir Singh, Farukh Choudhary.

small injury problems with few players. The Bangladesh game is going to be very different from the last one against Qatar. We need all the players to be fully fit, and

## Divij & Sitak bow out

Nagal beats Sakamoto

### INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
ZHUAHAI (CHINA)

Divij Sharan and Artem Sitak of New Zealand lost 7-6 (2), 6-4 to second seeds Luke Bambridge of Britain and Ben McLachlan of Japan in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$1,000,000 ATP tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

Divij shared \$4,900 with the Kiwi.

In the Challenger in Buenos Aires, seventh seed Sumit Nagal beat Pedro Sakamoto of Brazil 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-3 in the second round and will play Jose Hernandez-Fernandez of Dominic Republic in pre-quarterfinals.

In the Challenger in France, seventh-seeded Gregoire Barrere of France downed Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 6-4 in the second round.

**The results: \$1,000,000 ATP, Zhuhai: Doubles (pre**

TV PICKS

**Rugby World Cup:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4 p.m.  
**India Women vs South Africa Women:** 2nd T20I, Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF



Djokovic to play in Tokyo after shoulder injury

BELGRADE  
World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, forced out of the US Open with a shoulder injury, is back in training and will play in Tokyo next week, a member of his press team said. The 32-year-old Serbian star has "started to train and the situation with his shoulder is a bit better", the spokesperson said. His return means he could play out the season and hold off a challenge to his top ranking from US Open winner Rafael Nadal. AFP



Shayna Jack struggling with drug probe

SYDNEY  
Australian swimmer Shayna Jack has claimed she could have to wait nine months for a chance to prove her innocence, after testing positive to a banned substance. Jack, part of Australia's 4x100m freestyle team that set a world record last year, tested positive outside competition to the banned muscle-building drug Ligandrol in June. In her first public comments since meeting with Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) officials in early August, Jack wrote in an Instagram post late on Tuesday that the uncertainty surrounding the lengthy drug probe and her swimming future had taken its toll. AFP



Guardiola defends Bernardo over Mendi tweet

PRESTON (UNITED KINGDOM)  
Pep Guardiola insisted that Bernard Silva is not guilty of racism over a tweet the Manchester City star sent to his team-mate Benjamin Mendy. The English Football Association has written to the Premier League champion requesting its observation after Silva posted pictures on social media on Sunday comparing Mendy to the character on a packet of Conguitos chocolates. AFP



Pochettino having a difficult time with his team  
COLCHESTER (UNITED KINGDOM)  
Mauricio Pochettino claimed his struggling Tottenham side is "unsettled" after it suffered an embarrassing League Cup third-round defeat at fourth-tier Colchester on Tuesday. "When you have an unsettled squad always it's difficult and you lose time and then you need time to recover the time you lose," he admitted. AFP

**Hammer champion Nazarov fails doping test**  
DOHA  
Olympic hammer throw champion Dilshod Nazarov of Tajikistan has been temporarily suspended after one of his samples from the 2011 world athletics championships failed a doping test, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Tuesday. His sample collected during that competition was positive for the steroid turinabol, the AIU said. Nazarov's 2016 title is the only gold medal in Tajikistan's Olympic history. AFP

# Advani-Mehta pair wins title

The former takes his tally to 23 while it's the maiden crown for the latter

WORLD SNOOKER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MANDALAY (MYANMAR)  
The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta overcame a tough Thai team to emerge World champions in the IBSF World snooker team event, here on Wednesday.

This takes Advani's world title tally to a phenomenal 23 while Aditya claimed his maiden at a time when his future is being doubted due to health issues.

For Advani, this win has ensured that his name is now there on every IBSF World title on offer. He had won the world billiards event here last week.

"I'm absolutely excited to win my first World title. All the years of hard work and struggle has finally paid off," said Mehta.

"It's a dream trip for me



Winning combo: Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta overcame a tough Thai to emerge World champions in the IBSF World snooker team event. ■ COURTESY IBSF

as I return from Myanmar in under 3 weeks with 2 World championship gold medals and a bronze (which he got in the world 6-red snooker event). I'm over the moon to have won the only missing

World title on my list and this win is very special for that reason.

"It's been a long but satisfying outing. Having to switch from billiards to snooker in a day and to come

out on top is a reassurance that specialising in two sports is indeed achievable."

**The result:** India-1 beat Thailand-2 5-2 (65-31, 9-69, 74 (55)-8, 21-64, 55-44, 72(52)-23, 83-9).

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# NATIONAL DAY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 01.10.1949 - 01.10.2019



## Ambassador's Message



H.E. Sun Weidong

October 1<sup>st</sup> this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. This is a moment of great historical significance. Over the past 70 years since the founding of new China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have worked hard and forged ahead defying all difficulties. One miracle after another have been created. The future and destiny of the Chinese nation have been fundamentally changed. China's economy has enjoyed sustained, sound and steady growth, the rule of law system has been improved, major achievements have been made in ethnic unity and progress, and remarkable progress has been made in promoting ecological civilization. People's living standards have been constantly improved, gross national income per person stood close to \$10,000 in 2018, and over 850 million people have been lifted out of poverty. China has blazed a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and achieved great transformations from standing up and growing rich to becoming strong.

Over the 7 years since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping at the core held high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, united and led the whole party and people of all ethnic groups across the country and pursued coordinated progress in the five-sphere integrated plan and balanced progress in the four-pronged comprehensive strategy. Historic changes have taken place in the party and various causes of the nation. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. China is now the world's second largest economy, largest trader in goods and largest holder of foreign exchange reserves. China has become the largest trading partner of over 130 countries and regions. China accounted for more than 30 percent of global economic growth, making it the most significant driving force. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the Chinese people are united and working tirelessly to achieve the two centenary goals and realize the Chinese dream of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In the face of complicated and profound changes in the international landscape, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, China has stayed committed to the path of peaceful development, resolutely safeguarded China's sovereignty, security and development interests, advocated multilateralism and economic globalization, promoted the building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. China has contributed its wisdom and solutions for world peace, stability and development.

China and India are neighbors linked by mountains and rivers, partners of win-win cooperation and friends hand in hand on their way forward. As we are both major developing countries, our two peoples have supported each other in pursuing national independence and development and helped each other in upholding global free trade. In recent years, China-India relations have maintained a positive development momentum. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the "hometown diplomacy" and held a historic Informal Summit in Wuhan, China, taking the closer developmental partnership between the two countries to a new height and putting it on the track of sound and stable development. China is India's second largest trading partner in goods, and India is China's largest trading partner in South Asia. More than 1,000 Chinese companies are doing business in India. They have put in a total investment of \$8 billion and created over 200,000 local jobs. Over two-thirds of Indian companies operating in China are making steady profits. China and India together account for nearly 40% of the world's population. There is huge potential and broad space for cooperation between us.

Next year will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India. Let us make full use of the opportunity of celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continue to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, focus on cooperation, seek common development and write a new chapter in China-India relations.

## Glorious Journey of the People's Republic of China

The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Through seventy years of hard work, the Communist Party of China has united and led the Chinese people on a glorious journey. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich and is becoming strong. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has been established, developed and improved. The Chinese people have made a great leap from inadequate food and clothing to moderate prosperity. The Chinese nation, with an entirely new posture, now stands tall and firm in the East.

### Standing Up of the Chinese People



With Mao Zedong as their main representative, the Chinese Communists led the Chinese people to secure a victory in the new democratic revolution, founded the PRC and established the basic socialist system. The photo shows at 3 p.m. on October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong announcing the establishment of the PRC's central people's government during the founding ceremony.

On October 1, 1949, the first five-star red flag was raised in Tian'anmen Square in Beijing. The Chinese people, who had experienced bitter struggle since modern times, finally saw the dawn of the rebirth of the Chinese nation. With the birth of the PRC, the Chinese people became masters of the country,



The development of Pudong in Shanghai is a highlight of China's reform and opening up. The farmland in the past has been turned into the Lujiazui International Financial Center dotted with high-rise buildings. The photo taken on June 27, 2018 shows the full view of Pudong new area.

society and their own destiny. They began to embark on a great journey of realizing a strong and prosperous country, national rejuvenation and people's happiness with full pride.

### Spring Breeze of Reform and Opening-up

In 1978, marked by the third plenary session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, China started the historical process of reform and opening-up.

The reform and opening-up is a great awakening of the Communist Party of China, and a great revolution in the history of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation. It is the great revolution that has brought unprecedented and profound changes to China, making reform and opening-up the most distinctive feature of contemporary China. Reform and opening-up is a key move to determine the destiny of contemporary China, and to achieve the two centenary goals and the great

rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

### Forging Ahead in New Era

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core has united the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to hold high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and has been guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It has promoted the coordinated implementation of the five-sphere integrated plan including economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy consisting of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, deepening reform in all areas, advancing law-based governance and exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party. Historic achievements in reform, opening-up and

cooperation, and socialist modernization have been made, historic shifts in the cause of the Party and the country have been promoted, and the socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. China adheres to the vision of peace, development, and win-win cooperation and constantly contributes Chinese wisdom and strength to foster world peaceful development. China and the people across the world will build a community with a shared future for mankind and jointly create a bright future for all!



The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation opened in Beijing on April 26, 2019. Nearly 5,000 guests from more than 150 countries and 90 international organizations attended the forum. The photo shows Chinese President Xi Jinping and foreign leaders walking into the venue of the forum's opening ceremony.

China today stands at a new historical starting point. Though great achievements have been made, there are still many mountains to scale and many shoals to navigate. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese people will continue forging ahead on the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics while comprehensively deepening reform, pursuing high-quality development, further opening up, committing to peaceful development, promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, creating more brilliant Chinese miracles in the new era, and making greater contribution to the cause of human progress.

## Seven Decades of China's Achievements

### Economy

China's economy has accelerated over the past seven decades, with gross domestic product rising at an average annual rate of 8.1 percent. From 1979 to 2018, China's economy grew by 9.4 percent annually on average, much higher than the world's average economic growth of 2.9 percent. In 1952, China's GDP was 30 billion U.S. dollars, while in 2018, its GDP reached 13.61 trillion U.S. dollars, an increase of 452.6 times. In 1978, China's GDP ranked 11th in the world, while in 2010, it became the second largest economy in the world. Gross national income per person reached 9,732 U.S. dollars in 2018, higher than the level seen in middle-income countries. Forex reserves reached 3.07 trillion U.S. dollars at the end of 2018, topping the world for the 13th straight year, while it stood at only 108 million dollars at the end of 1952.

### Politics

With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the threshold into a new era. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation and come to embrace the brilliant prospects of rejuvenation. We have actively developed socialist democracy and advanced law-based governance. The path, the theory, the system, and the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics have kept developing, blazing a new trail for developing countries to achieve modernization. The overarching task of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics is to realize socialist modernization and national rejuvenation, and that on the basis of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, a two-step approach should be taken to build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful by the middle of the century.

### Culture

In 2019, China's total number of world cultural heritage sites reaches 55, ranking first in the world. China has yielded fruitful results in cultural exchanges and communication with other countries. By the end of 2017, China had signed

cultural cooperation agreements with 157 countries, and the number of cultural exchange plans totaled nearly 800. Overseas Chinese cultural centers and Confucius Institutes, traditional Chinese cultures such as Chinese acrobatics, martial arts, calligraphy, Beijing Opera and Tai Chi have been further introduced to the world. By 2017, over 4,000 various cultural events took place in Chinese cultural centers in foreign countries, and over 8 million people were directly involved. By the end of 2017, 525 Confucius Institutes and 1,113 Confucius classrooms had been established in 146 countries and regions.

### Society

The 1.3 billion Chinese are no longer threatened by food or clothing shortages, more than 850 million Chinese are out of poverty, 770 million are employed, nine-year compulsory education is provided across the country, and China's universal health care system and social security system lead the world in scale. Life expectancy in 1949 was around 35 years, and it rose to 77 years in 2018. Maternal and infant mortality also decreased substantially, from 1,500 per 100 thousand and 200 per thousand 70 years ago, respectively, to 18.3 per 100 thousand and 6.1 per thousand in 2018, both meeting the Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule. The number of impoverished people dropped from 770 million in 1978 to 16.6 million in 2018, and the poverty rate dropped from 97.5% to 1.7%. By the end of 2020, we will have taken all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty, putting an end to absolute poverty in our country and creating a miracle in the history of development and poverty reduction. We are also on course to attain the first centenary goal by 2020, i.e. completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

### Ecological Civilization

Implementing its new concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, China has exerted intensive efforts to treat pollution with the enforcement of much stricter environmental laws and problem-oriented environmental supervision. China has gained remarkable achievements in such fields as prevention and treatment of air and water pollution,

ecological construction, low-carbon development, energy conservation and emission reductions. China's carbon dioxide emission per 10,000 yuan (nearly \$1,500) of GDP declined 4 percent in 2018. By the end of 2018, China's installed capacity for renewable energy reached 728,000 megawatts, up 12 percent on a year-on-year basis. China had contributed to at least 25 percent of the increase in the global green leaf area since the early 2000s. Over the past 40 years, China's forest coverage rate has increased nearly 10 percent to 21.66 percent. China is home to the world's largest man-made forest in scale.

### Diplomacy

China's diplomacy has established a fine tradition with distinctive features, including independence as the cornerstone of China's foreign policy, concern for the common good of humanity, pursuit of equity and justice, commitment to win-win outcomes, the mission of facilitating domestic development, and dedication to serving the Chinese people. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is the fundamental guideline of China's diplomatic work in the new era. China firmly safeguards national sovereignty, security and development interests, and devotes itself to the joint construction of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind with other countries. China is moving closer to the center stage of the world as a widely recognized promoter of world peace, contributor to global development and upholder of international order. China has dispatched 40,000 peacekeepers to around 30 UN peacekeeping operations since 1990, the most among all the five permanent UN Security Council members. It is also the second largest donor country for UN peacekeeping missions. China is playing an increasingly prominent role in providing constructive solutions to resolving international hotspot issues. China has been promoting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale. China is firm in upholding the multilateral trading system and advancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. China has deeply engaged in regional and sub-regional cooperation, and concluded 17 free trade agreements with 25 countries and regions.

Over 1000 Chinese enterprises continue to invest and contribute to India's growth, deepening economic ties.

中国电信 CHINA TELECOM	中国银行 CHINA BANK	HUAWEI	中国电建 CHINA HYDROPOWER	上汽集团 SAIC
AIR CHINA 中国国航 AIR CHINA	SANY 三一 SANY	中航国际 AVIC INT'L	ICBC 中国工商银行 ICBC	中航材 AVIC MATERIAL
YINGKE-INDIA 英科印度 YINGKE-INDIA	中钢冶金 SINOMARCO	SINOPEC 中石化 SINOPEC	CPTDC 中航材 CPTDC	中航材 AVIC MATERIAL
中国银行 CHINA BANK	中国石油 CHINA PETROLEUM	CITIC 中国中信 CITIC	CRRC PIONEER 中车 CRRC PIONEER	BILLION BROADCASTER BILLION BROADCASTER
中国重汽 SINOTRUK	COSCO SHIPPING COSCO SHIPPING	HEC 中国海诚 HEC	中国汽研工程有限公司 CHINA AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE BAosteel	BAosteel BAosteel
TCL TCL	CHANGHONG 长虹 CHANGHONG	OPPLE 欧普照明 OPPLE	YAMA 亚玛 YAMA	ShineDing ShineDing
FTY 飞泰 FTAI	PEPSICO 百事可乐 PEPSICO	CSI CSI Interfusion	RISLAND 瑞士兰 RISLAND	ShineDing ShineDing
CULING 淳林 CULING	XD XD	OPPLE 欧普照明 OPPLE	ShineDing ShineDing	BAosteel BAosteel
名村 MINGCUN	MITHA MITHA	SCB 泰国泰开 SCA	OOCL 我们自己 OOCL	CHINT 申菱 CHINT
中国工研院 CHINATECH	CNPPOWER CNPOWER	LAUNCH 科技 LAUNCH	CISDI CISDI	GEA GEA
中国船舶 CHINA SHIPBUILDING	PTC PTC	KACO KACO SMART ENERGY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	KIN LONG 建朗 KIN LONG	WEST INDIA 西班牙西印公司 WEST INDIA
BTW ATLANTA BTW ATLANTA	WANHUA 惠生 Wanhua	Nader 恩耐 Nader	海天 HAITIAN	YAPP 亚普股份 YAPP
BTW ATLANTA BTW ATLANTA	Quan 全友 Quan	LANZHENG 兰亚化工 LANZHENG	TRANSOM INSTRUMENTS TRANSOM INSTRUMENTS	SEDDIN SEDIN
BONENG 邦能 BONENG	智蓝海蓝 智蓝海蓝	LiuGong 龙工 LiuGong	MCM MCM	
BUITU 布图 BUITU	FATSLUX 费特乐 FATSLUX	GENEW GENEW		
		GENEW GENEW		

CHAMBER OF CHINESE ENTERPRISES IN INDIA